



# THE INDEPENDENT

N° 3,399

THURSDAY 11 SEPTEMBER 1997

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## Now's the day, now's the hour

Polls predict a  
Home Rule win

Stephen Goodwin:

Scotland stands poised to take its destiny in its own hands today and vote for Home Rule. The dippant remark 290 years ago by the Earl of Seaford as the Union ended Scotland's last parliament, that "there's an end to an auld sang" is about to be confounded.

Donald Dewar, the Secretary of State for Scotland, was yesterday sufficiently confident of victory to stand with his temporary allies, the SNP and Liberal Democrats and cut a "Double Yes" cake.

The "wedding cake" gesture and the atmosphere of the final appearance by the Scottish party leaders after a 100-hour campaign blitz was almost triumphalist. Glowing endorsements in the Scottish press and favourable opinion polls had all but erased jitters about securing a clear mandate for a Parliament in today's referendum.

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seemed Mr Dewar's only real worry. The Tory-dominated Think Twice campaign all but conceded defeat in an ill-tempered final press conference. Its chairman, Donald Findlay, accused the Scottish media of waging "propaganda war" on behalf of the pro-devolutionists. Reporting of the campaign had been a disgrace, he said.

The former Tory minister Lord Fraser of Carmyllie, the only politician of note to take an active role in Think Twice, sounded equally bitter, protesting at the "intolerance" of the Home Rule parties, particularly the Labour Party. The way figures such as Sir Bruce Patullo, Governor of the Bank of Scotland, had been excluded from the debate should make people think twice about the new style of democracy being offered, Lord Fraser suggested.

Sir Bruce was the most prominent member of the financial community to voice fears about the effect of devolution on Scotland's economy. However, the "No" campaigners appear to have made little headway, even over the possibility of tax increases for Scots - the area regarded as the Achilles' heel of the referendum.

An ICM poll for the *Scotsman* yesterday showed 46 per cent of voters believed the Parliament should have tax varying powers, compared with 40 per cent against, hardly a ringing endorsement but not greatly different to before the campaign began. Support for the Parliament itself is running at comfortable three-to-one in favour.

"To trust themselves. To have confidence in their future and vote for a new and modern settlement for Scotland that allows the Scottish people to take decisions closer to them, closer to their own priorities."

"They know they have got the assurance from the Labour Party on the tax-varying powers for

Scotland that we will not raise income tax for five years," the Prime Minister said.

Extraordinarily, Scots in radio phone-ins and vox pops have been doubting whether 129 politicians of good calibre could be found to fill the Edinburgh Parliament. But the message from the Prime Minister and Mr

Dewar for Scots to trust themselves has taken root.

Mr Dewar, who may well be not just the John the Baptist of the Scottish Parliament but become its First Minister, portrayed the coalition for Home Rule as part of the new style of politics he hopes emerge in Edinburgh.

"What is on offer is direct democratic control over a large area of Scotland's domestic affairs ... that is a great improvement on what is at the moment a rather shop-soiled state of affairs," he said.

Cutting the cake with Mr Dewar was Alex Salmond, leader of the Scottish National Party.

Photograph: Ian Waldie/Reuters

Flying the flag: A supporter of devolution flying the Scottish Saltire in Edinburgh yesterday on the eve of today's referendum

Mr Dewar was still warning against complacency causing a low turnout. "The terrible tragedy would be if people were to wake up on Friday morning and find that someone had stolen their 'jam sandwich,'" he said. But disinterest among the electorate, rather than any impact by the "No" campaigners

clearly delighted that what he regards as the first step to independence is about to be taken, and Jim Wallace, Leader of the Scottish Liberal Democrats.

The Treasury would, reportedly, shed few tears if there was a "No" vote on tax powers. If it was combined with a low overall turnout, there would be pressure on the Government to rethink the whole devolution exercise.

However, that looks unlikely to be the outcome and Scots are set to seize their new destiny 700 years to the day after William "Braveheart" Wallace defeated the English at the Battle of Stirling Bridge.

## 'Attitudes have changed,' says the first woman minister to come out

Suzanne Moore

Angela Eagle, a junior environment minister and MP for Wallasey, has become the first senior politician to come out as a lesbian.

In an exclusive interview with *The Independent* she said: "I have a long-term and very happy relationship ... I happen to be with a woman."

As the first woman politician at this level to come out as gay, Ms Eagle felt that the time was right to be open about her relationship. She has received, she says, huge support both from her family and the leadership of the Labour party. "To be honest I didn't expect anything else. Attitudes have changed ... I think people are a lot more sensible than we sometimes give them credit for".

"I think I've only been able to cope with that because I have

a very understanding family. My sister [Maria Eagle is Angela's twin and also an MP], my brother and my father, all of whom are heterosexual, have just always supported me."

When she was elected in 1992, Ms Eagle was the youngest member of the House and she and Maria are often mistaken for each other.

Her decision to come out now is for two reasons: to deal with it herself and "to get a handle on this job and make sure that I can do it properly. Now I am at the stage where I need to get things sorted so I can just concentrate on my work".

Seen by all her colleagues as an extremely hard-working and talented politician, at 36 already holding ministerial office she talked about the pressures on MPs trying to maintain a balance between work and their personal lives. "Should politi-



Angela Eagle: 'I think people are a lot more sensible than we give them credit for'

tually very busy with her own life," she says.

While other MPs are doubtless watching the reaction in order to judge whether they should be similarly honest, Ms Eagle says she has no idea about which other of the new intake of women MPs may also be gay. "I can't even put all the names to faces yet, let alone speculate about their sexuality".

She doesn't feel that coming out will be in any way a bar to promotion within the party. "I get no sense of that at all," she says, and she has decided that

"the best option now is to just be open about it". She has, she says, been lucky in having in her family. Coming out, she hopes, will mean that she is under less personal strain and can now just concentrate on getting on with the job she loves.

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## QUICKLY

Ritz may face charges

Criminal action for negligence

may be taken against the Ritz

hotel in Paris following con-

fimation that Henri Paul,

the driver of the car in which Diana,

Princess of Wales died, had tak-

en two anti-depressant pre-

scription drugs, as well as a large

amount of alcohol.

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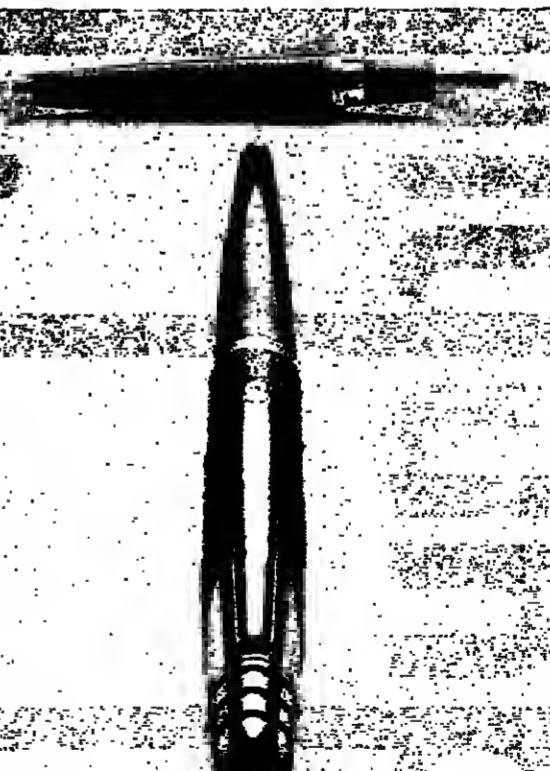
William "Braveheart" Wallace

defeated the English at the

Battle of Stirling Bridge.

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Barrie Clement  
Labour Editor

One of Britain's biggest unions is working to break a threatened strike at Ford by lorry drivers determined to defend an allegedly racist recruitment system.

Leaders of truck fleet employees at Dagenham, Essex, the most powerful group of workers in the company, have decided to hold a strike ballot, which the Transport and General Workers' Union has vowed to undermine.

A walkout by the drivers who ferry parts between Ford's

plants would bring Ford's British operation to a halt within hours and cause other factories in Western Europe to shut within days.

The truck fleet workers are angry over an agreement between the union and management to introduce an independent element into the selection procedure for their

the TUC's Congress in Brighton, Bob Purkiss, National Officer for Equality in the TGWU, said the union would cooperate with the company's long-cherished aim of contracting out its transport operation.

While the proportion of ethnic minority workers in the main factories at Dagenham is 40 and 50 per cent, the proportion in the truck fleet

member United Road Transport Union. Mr. Purkiss said that the TGWU was not prepared to tolerate highly damaging disruption.

"We have bent over backwards to allow people to come to terms with the change, but it seems they are not prepared to do so."

Union convenors from most of the main Ford plants in Britain were last night attempting to persuade drivers' representatives to think again. David Higginbottom, of the smaller union, said the transport union generally had a low percentage of employees from ethnic minorities.



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## news

## Sporting life shorts

**Blunkett gives parents red light to complain**

Parents should be able to ring the Department for Education to complain about their children's schools, David Blunkett, the Secretary of State for Education said yesterday. His suggestion, made at the second of seven regional conferences on the Government's schools White Paper, was immediately attacked by headteachers as "extremely unhelpful and dangerous". Mr Blunkett said outside the London conference that he was looking at ways in which parents could contact his department's standards and effectiveness unit if they were concerned about schools. But David Hart, of the National Association of Head Teachers said: "It is wholly wrong to encourage parents to complain to government departments when there are perfectly well-established procedures at local level." Judith Judd

**Burke survives hairy inquisition**

Ireland's foreign minister Ray Burke, who is leading Dublin's team in next week's Northern Ireland talks has survived a Dail grilling on why he was paid £30,000 in cash from a hauler during the 1989 general election. Mr Burke (left) said "no strings were attached" to the gift, but evaded Opposition inquiries on whether he took other large contributions eight years ago. His survival is critical for the Taoiseach, Bertie Ahern, whose judgement in appointing him in June after a private Fianna Fail party inquiry into the gift was also on trial. Alan Murdoch

**Rugby star cleared of sex assault**

The former England rugby star John Hall was yesterday cleared of groping a female student. Mr Hall, who was capped 21 times for his country, was accused of pushing his hand down the 24-year-old woman's trousers and touching her bottom during a celebration night out. A jury at Bristol Crown Court took just 35 minutes to clear him of indecent assault.

**Royal Academy denies Hirst claims**

The Royal Academy last night denied ever offering membership to the artist Damien Hirst who had claimed he turned it down denouncing the august body as a "big, fat, stuffy institution". A spokesman for the RA, whose latest show, *Sensation*, opens next week and will include some works by Hirst, said: "He has not been offered a Royal Academicianship either informally or formally by anyone at the Royal Academy." Kim Sengupta

**Connoisseur puts wine cellar on sale**

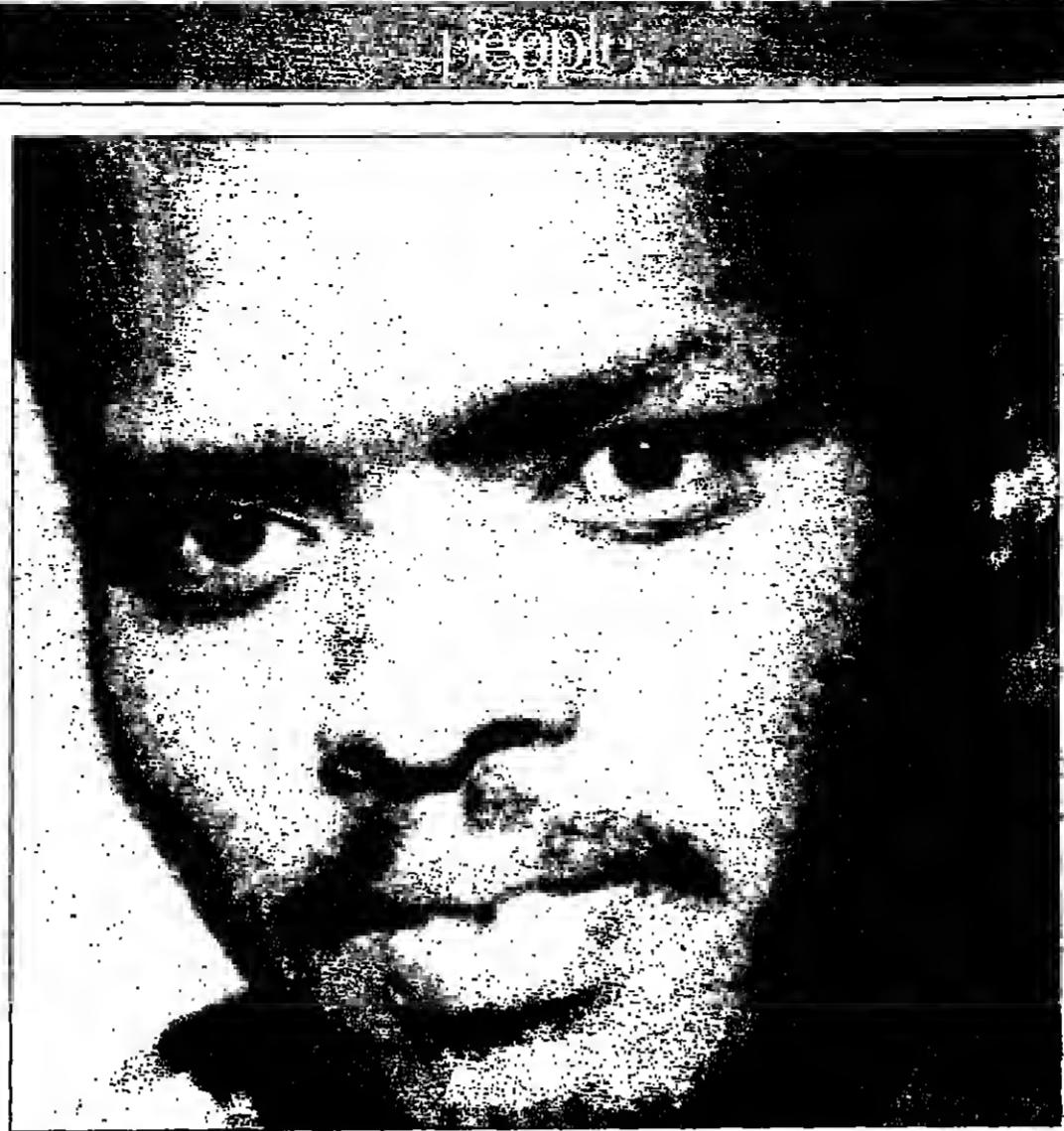
The world's largest private wine cellar is to go under the hammer at Christie's in London. The 19,000 bottles are expected to raise £5m at the sale on 18 and 19 September.

# Frank

Another women's magazine

**Politics**  
Art Cars  
**Health**  
New York  
Human rights  
Babies  
Glamour  
Stilettos  
Fridge magnets

**On sale now**



Freedom warrior: Steve Biko, whose killing prompted an international outrage against the South African regime, 'went wild' in custody, according to former Major Harold Snyman

**Apartheid enforcer sticks to 'farcical' story on Biko killing**

Twenty years after the death in detention of black consciousness leader Steve Biko, five former security policemen yesterday asked the Truth and Reconciliation Commission for amnesty for killing him. In a hushed and packed hall in a Port Elizabeth township, former major Harold Snyman, 69, who led the final interrogation of one of the anti-apartheid struggle's greatest sons, admitted the policeman had lied to a 1977 inquest into Biko's death, which concluded the death was accidental.

Mr Snyman said that after receiving head injuries during questioning, Biko, naked and sleep-deprived, did not receive immediate medical help as had been claimed.

Though Biko collapsed and his speech was slurred, officers shackled him by his hands and feet in standing position to a metal grille where he remained for an entire day "to break down his resistance". It was another day before he received medical treatment. Even when surgeon Ivor Lang finally examined him, he decided Biko was shamming and sent him to his cell. Three days later Biko was found lying on the floor frothing at the mouth. He was then flung in the back of a police Land Rover, still naked and in chains, for a 700-mile trip from Port Elizabeth to Pretoria Prison Hospital where he died on 12 September of brain damage.

But despite yesterday's testimony, Mr Snyman stuck in essence to his incredible inquest story: Steve Biko died because five white security policemen had to fight to defend themselves against one black activist who "went wild" because he did not want to stand for questioning.

Yesterday, lawyer George Bizos, who represented Biko's family at the 1970s inquest – condemned as a state-sanctioned whitewash – said the policemen were still not making full disclosure and that their actions were not politically motivated. The men need to establish both to be granted amnesty by the TRC, the independent body

which is working to expose apartheid-era atrocities by offering indemnity in exchange for truth.

Donald Woods, the South African journalist who befriended Biko and was a central character in *Cry Freedom*, Sir Richard Attenborough's 1987 cinematic tribute to the black consciousness leader, said yesterday that if the police officers stuck to the inquest line "it would be a farce". Gideon Nieuwoudt, former police sergeant and convicted murderer who is also applying for amnesty for Biko's death, has already been accused this week of making a mockery of the truth and reconciliation process. The former activist, Mkhuse Jack, says that while he will not oppose Nieuwoudt's application for torturing him, Nieuwoudt's claim that it only happened once is a blatant lie.

The Biko family has opposed amnesty every inch of the way. Last year Biko's widow, Ntsiki, and the families of other murdered activists challenged the constitutionality of the TRC in the country's highest court. They argued that the Commission, a foundation for South Africa's transition to black majority rule, was a vehicle for political expediency and robbed them of their right to justice. Once amnesty is granted all civil and criminal action against perpetrators is ruled out.

Even the TRC's staunchest supporters understand the anger of families like the Bikos. In September 1977, while Mrs Biko struggled with her loss, National Party minister Jimmy Kruger was entertaining an NP congress with jokes about Biko's death. Mr Kruger at first claimed Biko had died on hunger strike. The delegates split their sides when he said South Africa was so democratic that prisoners had the democratic right to starve themselves to death.

The amnesty applications of Mr Snyman, Mr Nieuwoudt and former captain Daniel Siebert and warrant officers Jacobus Beneke and Rubin Marx continue today.

**Jill Dando switches channels to present music awards**

The TV personality, Jill Dando, is to present the Gramophone Awards on ITV, the first time in their 20-year history that the premier classical music awards have been given their own television show. Dando, who is a BBC presenter, had to be given special permission to be allowed to appear on the show on 28 October, which is being mounted by Carlton Television. While The Brits and the Mercury Music Prize receive prime time TV coverage, this will be the first time that classical music gets a glitzy TV awards show. The ceremony itself will be at London's Alexandra Palace on Monday 27 October, and Luciano Pavarotti will make a guest appearance.

Chris Pollard, editorial director of Gramophone Magazine said: "We are delighted that at last the awards will be gaining a mass audience. ITV has recognised the broadcast potential of this event and its coverage will give a major boost to the classical music in-



dustry. The broadcast will give fans a chance to see their musical heroes and also introduce them to a whole new audience. I really feel that a lot of pre-conceptions about the world of classical music end the artists that inhabit it will be altered on 28 October."

Former recipients of the Gramophone awards include Pavarotti, Carreras, Kiri Te Kanawa and Nigel Kennedy.

**Science Museum buys Warhol's Old Sparky**

An electric chair once owned by pop artist Andy Warhol yesterday sold at auction for £4,800. In a few minutes brisk and tense bidding, London's Science Museum secured the chair over an anonymous telephone bidder from California in the sale at Bristol Auction Rooms.

The all-steel chair was once owned by California's Department of Penal Correction. It was the main item in more than 30 lots of pop art memorabilia associated with Warhol. It had a guide price of £2,000-£4,000.

The 61-year-old chair was in the prison system, including the infamous Alcatraz, St Quentin and Chino. Its role was more of a visual deterrent than a lethal purpose.

Warner Bros used it as a film prop in the fifties. It featured in *Inside the Walls of Folsom Prison*, *Crime-wave*, and Alfred Hitchcock's *I Con-*



the London Dungeon Museum of Horrors – Mr Death and his assistant – had hoped to bid for the chair, with their bidding card appropriately numbered 668.

But Mr Death – Peter Osborne, 29 – never got a bid in as his top price of £4,000 was the starting point for the bidding.

Science Museum curator, Nell Brown, said that it was hoped to exhibit the Warhol chair within six to ten months in the medical collection.

He said: "We understand it was used in at least one American institution for executions. It is part of history and the Science Museum deals not only with the nice things but the nasty bits as well. And the electric chair was certainly one of the nasty bits."

Some American states still rely on an electric chair for their executions.

**briefing****MEDICINE****Genetic breakthrough could lead to cancer cure**

American scientists said yesterday that a gene similar to one blamed for many types of cancer could open up a new way of attacking the killer disease.

William Kaelin Jr and researchers at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute and Harvard Medical School in Boston, Massachusetts examined the properties of "p73", a gene which is a close cousin to the tumour-suppressor gene p53, linked to more than 50 per cent of all cancer cases. When p53, the most important suppressor gene known, is mutated or not working, tumours can develop.

In a report in the scientific journal *Nature*, Mr Kaelin said that p73 can mimic the work of p53 – inducing cancer cells to die. "Our study shows that in principle there is actually another gene which is very similar to p53 and which could perform the functions normally performed by p53."

Mr Kaelin said that one of the reasons cancer cells don't die, and with a lot of genetic damage they should, is because they were smart enough to inactivate p53 which would ordinarily induce the damaged cells to commit suicide. "What our study shows is that when you activate this unknown p53 homologue, p73, it will likewise induce cancer to undergo cell death."

The discovery of p73 could lead to the development of new drugs that would activate the expression of the p73 gene, which so far does not appear to be frequently mutated in human cancer.

"You may have a copy of the p53-like gene that is in a somewhat dormant state that could then be activated by a drug," Mr Kaelin said. "Our study shows that if you did induce the expression of p73 in a cancer cell you could reasonably expect that the cell would undergo cell suicide."

**TRANSPORT****Call for user-friendly bus service**

A green transport group yesterday called for "door-to-door bus services" as a way to cut car usage. A national public transport information service should also be set up, said Transport 2000. The group also said tickets should be valid on all public transport in every British city in a report entitled *Blueprint for Quality Public Transport*.

Transport 2000 said there were five major barriers to wider use of public transport. There was no public transport at all for the routes people wanted to travel. There was poor, or no, information about what services were available.

In addition, poor public transport was much slower than car travel; people with children, or disabilities, had trouble using public transport. There was also a general unwillingness to use it through ignorance or previous bad experiences, it was claimed.

The report, along with other things, for old rail lines to be reopened, more bus lanes, cheaper fares especially for groups and families and "train taxi" tickets which buy a taxi ride from rail stations to the traveller's home.

"People have been talking about an integrated public transport system for years. Now we've shown that it's possible and what it means in practice," said Transport 2000's director, Stephen Joseph. He went on: "Quality public transport will attract people out of their cars, especially if it's combined with other measures."

**TECHNOLOGY****Hitler speaks from beyond the grave**

Adolf Hitler and Winston Churchill's voices have been resurrected from rare recordings with the feather-light touch of an optical stylus invented by Swiss researchers.

The stylus, developed by Philippe Robert and colleagues at the Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne, relies on a single optical fibre a thousand times lighter than a conventional diamond needle. It can now play ageing 78 rpm discs and cylinders that were too fragile or damaged to play.

Some cylinders were so delicate they could only be played once. The weight of the hard needle had also worn away the groove because the discs were too soft.

But Robert told *New Scientist*: "We have played many times soft wax discs which can usually only be played once or twice. We have listened to speeches by wartime leaders such as Churchill, Roosevelt and Hitler. We were particularly charmed by a broadcast by the then Princess Elizabeth made for the BBC on her 14th birthday."

**CRIME****Britain tops vandalism league**

British households suffer the worst problems of crime and vandalism in the European Union, according to a survey published yesterday.

One in three families said crime and vandalism were a problem in their area compared with an EU-wide average of just one in five.

This was British households' biggest complaint about where they live. Noise is the second most serious problem in Britain – cited by 22 per cent of households – followed by lack of space (21 per cent) and pollution (16 per cent).

Only Spain and France appear to face a similar problem with crime and vandalism, where a quarter of households complained about it. German and Greek households reported having the least trouble.

A fifth of British householders and a third of rent payers said they found it hard to pay the mortgage, taxes, heating and other housing costs.

Noise, from neighbours or the street, was the most common complaint across the EU – cited by 27 per cent of households – particularly in Spain, Italy and Germany.

Irish households seem to be the most contented of all with complaints below average in every area.

But 6 per cent had no hot running water, 5 per cent had no bathroom or shower and 4 per cent no inside toilet – problems virtually wiped out in Britain where just 1 per cent have no bathroom or shower.

The findings are based on a survey of 60,500 households in 1994 covering the 12 countries which were members of the European Union at the time.

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John Lichfield

# Have children late and live longer

**Charles Arthur**  
Science Editor

If you know somebody who has had a child after her 40th birthday, you may have met a future centenarian. Scientists have discovered that bearing a baby in the fifth decade of life is a strong indicator that a woman has anti-ageing genes which will help her reach the age of 100.

The result could lead towards the identification of the estimated 8,000-odd genes which slow down the natural process of ageing. It also provides support for research suggesting that hormone replacement therapy after the menopause will also help extend a woman's life.

According to an American study comparing a group of women born in 1896 who

reached 100 with others born in the same year who died aged 73, the centenarians were much more likely to have had a child in their forties than those who died at a "normal" age.

However, women seeking to live longer should not rush into their lover's arms (or the sperm bank). It is not the act of having a child after 40 which leads to a congratulatory royal telegram 60 years later. The key

factor is the genes that the child's mother was born with. Having the baby does not confer the genes.

For the women born in 1896, successfully bearing a child during a 10-year period which included the Second World War indicated that nature had endowed them with the ideal genetic makeup for a long life.

Thomas Perls, who carried

out the research at the gerontology division of the Harvard Medical School, said yesterday: "It helps the result that some of them would have had artificial oestrogen therapy, so we know what we're seeing was genetic."

The research, published today in the science journal *Nature*, adds to the confusing scientific literature which

women can weigh up when trying to decide at what age – if at all – to have children.

Previously, research has demonstrated that the younger a woman is when she has her first child, the less likely she is to develop breast cancer during her life. The effect may be due to the growth of the breasts during pregnancy.

Plentiful evidence also shows that the older the mother, the more likely it is the embryo will

suffer from a genetic defect such as Down's syndrome. That is thought to be because the eggs accumulate genetic damage.

Because the longer-lived women went through menopause later, the result suggests that the oestrogen in their bodies produced also helped them survive longer, avoiding age-related diseases like Alzheimer's.

Dr Perls is now following up

the work by studying the children of the women from the research group, and also looking for families where there are two or more siblings aged over 90. By comparing blood samples, he hopes to find long stretches of DNA which represent "the city in which the anti-ageing genes have their home". After that, he hopes to find the genes responsible – though it may be the work of a lifetime.



Frank and fearless: A heavily pregnant model wears the latest creations from designers Sonia Rykiel, Belle Aura and Ghost  
Photograph: John Akehurst



Under-cover, up-front: The traditional image of Van Eyck's *The Arnolfini Marriage* contrasts sharply with the magazine's radical vision

## Pregnant with meaning – or a slight on motherhood?

**Jojo Moyes**

The female form has been among the most celebrated images of our cultural heritage – as long as it isn't pregnant.

Ask anyone to list well-known depictions of pregnancy, and they will be lucky to come up with a handful. The stomach, swollen with child, is a rare sight in even "enlightened" 20th-century culture.

The film actress Demi Moore caused a controversy when, heavily pregnant, she appeared nude on the cover of *Vanity Fair* magazine. Piero della Francesca's *Madonna del Parto* unusually shows a Madonna heavily with Child rather than Madonna and Child.

But these are rare examples: the National Gallery in London, for example, could not come up with a single artistic representation of pregnancy yesterday.

According to a spokeswoman, the example most commonly believed to depict

impeoding motherhood – Van Eyck's *The Arnolfini Marriage* – showed nothing more than the fashion for heavily gathered high waistbands.

In an effort to combat this ambivalence – or perhaps as an effective sales gimmick – *Frank*, a new "alternative" magazine for women, decided to use three heavily pregnant models to illustrate a fashion shoot.

The feature, entitled "Eight-and-a-half: It's a miracle, not a dress size," shows the models' stomachs protruding between their clothes, bare flesh visible. They could not be more different from the demurely pregnant women blooming between the pages of mother-and-baby magazines, or maternity catalogues.

But this alternative approach is not without controversy. *Frank*'s editor, Tina Gaudoin, said yesterday she was "disgusted" by the fact that readers – both men and women – had contacted them to complain about the images, one even describing them as "grotesque".

"The modern woman doesn't regard pregnancy as a different state; a special state, perhaps, but she still has to live her life. So we wanted to integrate it into the mainstream to illustrate the fact that it's very beautiful and to say you don't have to cover it up," said Ms Gaudoin, herself a mother.

"When you think of the things that can be reproduced without men batting an eyelid

... that someone could call this grotesque! Well, I don't care if people find it offensive, because it's incredibly beautiful. They should get used to it."

On *Frank*'s pages, they may have to. Ms Gaudoin says that expectant mothers will feature again. "It won't be a regular feature, but these clothes aren't pregnancy clothes, so there's no reason why we wouldn't do women in different states of pregnancy," she said.

"An extremely high percentage of women get pregnant; it's a state most of us go through. If you can't see it openly in a magazine then you have a problem. The fact that women could complain about these images I find incredibly sad."

The pregnant form, it seems, still provokes equivocal feelings. Two years ago, a schoolgirl artist in Aberdeen caused a storm when her painting of a nude pregnant woman went on public display, with female staff demanding that it be taken down.

Her headmaster said: "Opinion was expressed that this shouldn't be shown in the main corridor of a school."

With an increasing number of models and actresses now proud to record their bumps on celluloid, perhaps a new generation will find the images less disturbing. As the satirist artist said afterwards: "They are so behind the times. I thought their reaction was quite funny."

## Charities fear impact of Diana memorial fund

**Louise Jury**

Some charities raised fears yesterday that they could be hit financially if members of the public simply divert their donations to the fund set up in memory of Diana, Princess of Wales.

Action Research, a medical research charity for serious disabling diseases, was the first to plead for donations to the fund to be made in addition to existing charitable gifts.

Anne Luther, its director-general, said that at least one supporter, who runs the marathon, had already switched allegiance. It was clear that some who had previously pledged their support to Action Research wanted to redirect their funds to be associated with a suitable memorial to the work which Diana had accomplished.

But Mrs Luther said: "I cannot believe that it would have been Diana's wish that the charities she espoused should benefit at the expense of other good causes: rather that we should all be prepared to go the extra mile."

Action Research was not a charity with which Diana had been associated, but its work underpins much of what the Princess chose to face so passionately". It had cancelled fundraising events last Saturday "out of our deepest respect".

But, while the fears might prove groundless, Mrs Luther said that if several hundred people who traditionally gave £10 or £20 did not do so, that would be an imbalance.

Barry Brookings, chief executive of the Parkinson's Disease Society, which Diana supported

ed until her divorce, said Action Research had raised an important point and was brave to do so at such a sensitive time.

It was vital for charities like

Parkinson's to maintain their income to be able to carry out their work. "There is a finite amount of money which is available to charities."

Details of the memorial fund were yet to be confirmed, although it seemed probable that the six charities of which Diana was patron would benefit, as well as perhaps the 100 or so more which she backed until her divorce. Mr Brookings said he could understand the fears of other charities. "This could mean there is less in the pot. But knowing Diana, she wouldn't want an imbalance."

Derek Bodell, of the National AIDS Trust, one of the six

charities which the Princess continued to support, said it believed that the distribution of the fund would have to reflect the totality of her interests.

"It doesn't serve anyone's interests if so much money goes in one direction than other good causes and charitable activities, not linked with Princess Diana, suffer."

Tony Manwaring from NCH Action for Children, said: "For now, it's important that the public continue to give. The resounding popular response to Diana's charitable works is clearly a restatement of the values of helping charities."

Lindsay Bosc, of the National Council of Voluntary Organisations, said: "We would encourage people to continue in their normal course of giving in addition to this fund."

## Ritz faces negligence charge over death crash driver

**John Lichfield**

Criminal action for negligence may be taken against the Ritz hotel in Paris following confirmation that Diana, Princess of Wales, was driven to her death by a man who had consumed large quantities of drink and two mind-calming prescription drugs.

Henri Paul, 41, deputy head of security at the Ritz, had more than three times the legal level of alcohol in his blood, according to a new test suggested by a British pathologist retained by the Fayed family.

Mr Paul had also taken a substantial dose of Prozac, the anti-depressant drug, and a small amount of Tizipralid, a

drug sometimes prescribed to calm people who have taken excessive amounts of alcohol.

Medical experts disagreed yesterday on whether this added up to a dangerous cocktail which might, in itself, have led Mr Paul to lose control of the car before it crashed into the concrete pillar of the Paris road tunnel. But they agreed that the quantity of alcohol involved – equivalent to at least a bottle of wine – was enough alone to cloud his judgement and damage his peripheral vision.

Sources close to the criminal investigation of the accident, which also killed Mr Paul and Diana's companion, Dodi Fayed, told the French press yesterday that Mr Paul's condition was now regarded as the prime cause of the crash. There

such a legal action might be justified, the sources said, on two counts: that the hotel should have been aware of Mr Paul's physical condition; and that it should have known that he did not hold the special licence needed to drive a large, powerful limousine in Paris. Thirty detectives are still working on the case; over 100 witnesses have been interviewed, including 30 people who were at the Ritz before Diana's party left.

The sources also told *Le Figaro* and Agence France-Presse that the two investigating magistrates leading the inquiry were considering legal proceedings against Mr Paul's employers, the Ritz hotel. The sources said senior managers at the Ritz – owned by Dodi's father, Mohammed Al Fayed – could be placed under formal examination for "negligence" and "placing lives in danger", and "Leave me alone".

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# US suspends deportation of IRA activists

**David Usborne**  
New York  
David McKittrick  
Belfast

In a highly unusual departure from its own rules, the United States government has suspended deportation proceedings against six Irish nationals previously imprisoned for terrorist activities connected with the IRA.

The move, which could come back to haunt Washington in dealing with immigrants from other countries like Mexico, was portrayed by officials as a gesture towards assisting the Northern Ireland peace process.

The six, all of whom have completed their prison terms, were facing deportation back to the UK or Ireland because of misleading statements made to immigration officials on taking up residence in the US. Specifically, they failed to own up to their past criminal convictions.

While the Attorney General, Janet Reno, issued the instruction for the cases to be dropped, the impetus for it came from the Secretary of State, Madeleine

Albright. In a statement, Ms Albright said she hoped the move would advance the goal of a lasting, overall settlement in Northern Ireland.

On his recent visit to Washington, Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein leader, is believed to have raised the cases of the six men with the US government. Sinn Fein also sought assurances from the US on the issue even earlier when the IRA was considering a renewed ceasefire.

British officials meanwhile underscored that the move would have no bearing on extradition cases against three IRA fugitives currently pending in San Francisco. Those, they said, were governed by international extradition treaties, not domestic laws.

The decision prompted a news conference by 14 members of the US Congress at which Joe Kennedy, of Massachusetts, said the six never considered themselves as criminals. "It was, in fact, politics, not criminality," that led to their imprisonment, he said.

There was jubilation, meanwhile, for the six involved, five



## 25 years on, the Goons are back

**Amanda Kelly**

Twenty-five years after the last *Goon Show* was made, a new generation of listeners is being given the chance to familiarise itself with a comedy legend.

Spike Milligan, Sir Harry Secombe and Peter Sellers were last reunited in 1972 as part of the BBC's 50th anniversary celebrations. The trio got together for *The Last Goon Show Of All*, a live performance recorded for radio at the Camden Theatre in London.

Next month, Radio 2 is marking the occasion by broadcasting a new version of the *Goon finale*, which will include material cut from the original performance, Milligan's version of *I Left My Heart In San Francisco*, the publishers of which prevented its broadcast 25 years ago, will be heard for the first time.

The show will be preceded by a history of the programme entitled *At Last The Go-On Show*, featuring Milligan, Secombe, Eric Sykes and the late Michael Bentine. This will include some seldom-heard recordings and a feature on the first *Goon Show*, *Crazy People*, made 46 years ago.

Yesterday at the project's launch, the two surviving Goons proved they had lost none of their touch. Milligan, close to his 80th birthday, looked frail but retained his mischievous twinkle. When told that his friend

John Cleese was unable to make the event, he retorted: "John Cleese is a miserable bastard. He is never able to make it." And when presented with a framed tribute to the show, Sir Harry responded graciously: "Oh that'll fit in the lot nicely."

Speaking at the launch, Radio 2 controller James Moir said: "The *Goon Show* used to be the black sheep programme of the BBC. Now it is the golden fleece."

"It had a profound and lasting effect on me. As a schoolboy back in the Fifties I thought it quite simply the funniest thing I had ever heard. Forty years on it still bends me double with laughter."

Prince Charles, a well-known fan of Goonism, once said: "No matter how much 'fashion' in humour changes, there will always be thousands of people whose minds are attuned to the kind of mental slapstick and imaginary cartoonery that typifies Goonery ... It has always been one of my profound regrets that I was not born 10 years earlier than 1948, since I would then have had the pure unbound joy of listening avidly to the Goons each week."

*At Last The Go-On Show* and *The Last Goon Show Of All* will be broadcast as a double bill on BBC Radio 2 on 5 October. A special 25th anniversary edition video and audio cassette is also going on sale.

## Unionists are split over seat at peace table

**David McKittrick, Ireland correspondent**

The Unionist population may be split down the middle on the question of whether the leader of the Ulster Unionists, David Trimble, should sit at the table with Sinn Fein when talks open in Belfast on Monday.

A poll carried out by BBC Northern Ireland's *Hearts and Minds* television programme found that just over 50 per cent of Unionists wanted their leaders to negotiate face to face with Sinn Fein. Just under 50 per cent were against.

Mr Trimble yesterday met

Tony Blair in Downing Street, apparently seeking last-minute concessions which might ease his party's dilemma over the talks. The poll indicates how delicate the Ulster Unionist party's position is as it contemplates whether to go into negotiations.

Mr Trimble was unwilling to comment later on whether his party was now likely to take part in the talks. "We stressed to him the need for the Government to act against the situation where over recent weeks we have seen what could be called a tidal wave of republican triumphalism," he said.

Classic comedy: Spike Milligan yesterday. Photograph: David Rose Top right: Bentine, Secombe, Milligan, and Sellers recording 'Crazy People' in 1951. Photograph: Hulton Getty

## Patter of mice fails to stop Savoy winning top award



Tip-top: Staff at work in the kitchens of The Savoy yesterday

Photograph: John Voss

Presumably none of the business travellers who nominated The Savoy the best hotel in the world had had the pleasure of meeting a mouse during dinner.

The very same hotel which only last month hit the headlines because rodents were on the loose in the famous River Restaurant and adjacent Thames Foyer, prompting a visit from Westminster Council's environmental health officers, yesterday scooped the *Executive Travel* magazine's top award: Hotel of the Year.

For the first time in 15 years, the annual readers' poll by the magazine produced a Western winner. Previously, Asian establishments have wiped the board, but this year the Savoy, which is wedged between the Embankment and the Strand in the heart of London's theatres, came up trumps. Not only did it take the top title, but it was also voted best UK hotel

and best in the UK for rooms and food.

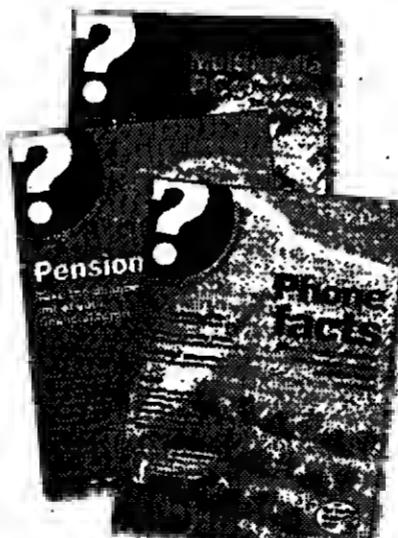
The Savoy, the brainchild of the Gilbert and Sullivan impresario Richard D'Oyle Carte, first opened its doors to the public in 1889. It boasted unheard-of features including full electric lighting and a startling number of baths (67 in total).

Over the years, the hotel has had numerous expansions, most recently the renovation which famously disturbed the mice and has entertained almost every star in the book.

Of the many glittering parties that have been held at The Savoy, one of the most famous is the Gondola dinner, hosted by George Kesler, the Champagne millionaire and Wall Street financier, in July 1905. The old forecourt was recreated as Venice, lit by 400 Venetian lamps. Other highlights were a baby elephant and a five-foot birthday cake.

Timothy Harris, a solicitor-entrepreneur, summed up the hotel, which is part of The Savoy Group, which includes The Berkeley, Clar-

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## the devolution votes

## Scots poised for Home Rule

Stephen Goodwin

Some 3.9 million people in Scotland are entitled to vote in today's referendum and so introduce a new era in their history.

If they heed the words of a petition presented in Edinburgh yesterday and cast their vote "without fail in favour of the restoration of our native parliament" laws on most of the country's domestic affairs will be made in Scotland for the first time in nearly 300 years.

On two separate ballot sheets voters will be asked if they want a Scottish Parliament and if they believe it should have

"tax varying" powers.

If, as opinion polls suggest, home rule is endorsed today a Scotland Bill will be introduced to the Westminster Parliament before Christmas.

The legislation is expected to receive royal assent by the summer or autumn of next year and elections would be held in the first half of 1999.

MSPs - Members of Scottish Parliament - would be elected under a form of proportional representation - 73 would be elected under the present first-past-the-post system and the re-

maining 56 selected from party lists. PR has been portrayed as a way of breaking the traditional Labour stranglehold on Scottish politics.

However, one opinion poll yesterday suggested that Labour could still win an outright majority in the 1999 election - precisely the outcome which Scots outside the Central Belt have always feared.

In 1979 when the last Labour government's devolution proposals narrowly failed it was partly because people in the Borders, north-east Scotland

and Orkney and Shetland feared domination by the municipal socialists of the Glasgow region.

Headed by a First Minister and new executive and Scottish Parliament will have responsibility for functions which are already administered by the 12,000 civil servants of the Scottish Office.

Democratic control is following earlier "bureaucratic devolution". Scots will have control over their own health service, education and training, local government, housing, eco-

nomic development, transport, law and order, the environment, farming and fishing, and sport and the arts. But not over monetary policy, employment legislation and social security.

It will be paid for, as now, by a Treasury block grant. This amounted to £14bn last year but will be cut to £12.8bn by the year 2000 when the Parliament comes into being.

The tax-varying power will enable the Parliament to vary the basic rate of income tax up or down by 3p. This would bring in about £45m. Chan-

cellor Gordon Brown has emphasised that the new Parliament must be prudent and is looking for any shortfall in funding to be made up by savings.

However, for most Scots and other residents north of the border going to the polls today it will be the emotion of home rule rather than the mechanics of government, and even taxation, that are uppermost.

It is an opportunity to take part in making history and one which as Donald Dewar, Secretary of State for Scotland, said yesterday "will not come around again for a very long time".

## By Europe's standards, a quiet affair

A big moment in history, but the Scots seem unexcited.

Steve Crawshaw reports

In the centre of the Fair City of Perth, campaigners are preparing for today's crucial voting.

Posters, megaphones, leaflets and flags. One of Scotland's best known politicians stands on the High Street, as part of a campaign to drum up support. Today's Scottish referendum could lead to the break-up of the United Kingdom itself. In short, a moment of history.

But Alex Salmond, leader of the Scottish National Party, does not get an excited response, among the voters of Perth. He chats for a while to three schoolgirls, who listen with faintly bored expressions to what he has to say.

The lack of drama in Perth - a seat held by the pro-independence SNP - is reflected across Scotland, although one woman has done more this week than anybody else to boost the sluggish Yes campaign: Baroness Thatcher probably drove many Scots into the arms of the Yes-Yessers.

Her passionately anti-devolution words reminded Scots of the finger-wagging intolerance from which they were desperate to get away. Even today, the words "Thatcher" and "poll tax" serve as a reminder that a Westminster parliament can ride roughshod over the wishes of Scottish voters. In the words of the *Scotsman*, Lady Thatcher herself is "living proof of the need for home rule".

Until the intervention of the former prime minister, there had been little fire in the campaign. The apparent willingness of the new government to talk and to listen, and the respect for the Scottish Secretary, Donald Dewar, means that few are as passionately anti-Westminster as they used to be.

One Glaswegian notes the obvious paradox: "If the Tories were still running things, it would be stronger. Yes. But if they were running things, there'd be no referendum."

Scotland has sometimes seemed in the past few years to fall into a European pattern for the 1990s. Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania broke away from Moscow; neat little Slovenia (which lacked the ethnic complexities of Croatia or Bosnia) broke away from Yugoslavia; Slovaks sliced themselves away from the Czechs. Independence for new countries - unthinkable, for four decades - was suddenly fashionable in the new Europe. Meanwhile, Scottish anger at London's arrogance was great.

In Moscow and Belgrade, the parallels with Scotland seemed obvious. "What would you [English] do, if Scotland tried to destroy the United Kingdom?" Russians and Serbs repeatedly asked, when explaining why they had to use force, to prevent secession. I pleaded ignorance on the constitutional details.

But I assured my questioners that no government in London would send tanks up the M1, to bring the Scots under control. I was greeted with disbelief. "When push comes to shove..." they seemed to retort.

Violent suppression apart, Lady Thatcher still appears to subscribe to a "never-mind-the-people" philosophy. She declared in Glasgow this week: "A majority vote won't make something that is fundamentally wrong right." But resistance to change has usually been counter-productive.

The "you-must-not" philosophy, in Yugoslavia and the Soviet Union, was an important factor in creating a singleness of purpose among pro-independence campaigners there. When Slovenia held a referendum on independence in December 1990 (anks were sent in, a few months later), excited Slovenes wanted to talk of little else. The contrast with Scotland - where most people say that they have not even discussed the subject in recent days - could hardly be greater.

Even in democratic Czechoslovakia, the lack of give-and-take hastened the break-up of the federation. "All or nothing," said Prague's Thatcher-loving prime minister, Vaclav Klaus. So the Slovaks, resenting the ever-snooty Czechs (echoes of the Scottish-English relationship, at its trickiest), took all. In 1992, they packed their bags and left. The velvet divorce was less than velvet; it left bitterness on both sides.

In Britain, such a not-quite-velvet divorce might still happen. But a closer comparison may be with western Europe, where movements for greater autonomy have been less about candlelit crowds and romantic sing-songs, more about constitutional nitty-gritty - and tolerance. Germany prides itself on its stability, partly because

of the need for home rule".

Only if Thatcher style ghosts return does separatist feeling look set to grow

power is so devolved. The Spanish region of Catalonia has been allowed a considerable degree of autonomy, and the pressure for full independence has fallen.

Tam Dalyell, Labour's leading dissident anti-devolution campaigner, insists that the proposed Scottish parliament is a "motorway without an exit". He fears full independence, just as SNP activists hope for it. But, if Scottish voters are wary about even taking the modest step of creating a Scottish parliament, then they are likely to be still warier of full independence.

Only if Thatcher-style ghosts return to haunt Scotland, imposing a twenty-first century equivalent of the loathed poll tax does separatist feeling look set to grow.

The Labour government hopes that the proposed creation of a Scottish parliament means that we have now passed the high-water mark of secessionist feeling. Conversely, a bout of seriously bad English behaviour may be the only hope, for the pro-independence SNP.

Tanks on the motorway would be too much to hope for, even in the most extreme scenario. But a Portillo-type leader seeking to emulate Margaret Thatcher might just do the trick.

For the SNP, a new bout of Thatcherite intolerance - not quite as bad as the Kremlin or Slobodan Milosevic, but almost - could be the ultimate dream.

Free-thinker: Louis "The Book" Livingstone outside the portable hut that has been home to the "Vigil for Democracy" for five-and-a-half years

Photograph: Brian Harris

## End of a long vigil, and a rare old chinwag

Douglas Fraser

The number 1979 is an inauspicious one for Scottish home rule, being the year that the last plans came badly unstuck. But on the front of a brightly painted portable hut outside Edinburgh's proposed parliament building today is day number 1979.

This is the Vigil for Democracy, a makeshift assembly of slogans, Saltire flags, ironic artefacts and eclectic people. They have kept the faith through five Scottish winters,

since the Conservative election victory on the morning of 10 April 1992 brought indignant home rulers from up to 200 miles away to protest outside the Royal High School building and the Scottish Office headquarters across the road.

Tonight the vigil is to be the focus of a BBC outside broadcast unit. And tomorrow, with a pavement party to celebrate the expected Yes-Yes vote, the vigil ends. At long last, the people of Scotland will have had their chance to speak, so there's no reason for us to continue af-

"We could have sat here till

Hell froze over, and it wouldn't have changed a thing," concedes Ms Grant, an Edinburgh office worker, who has taken a week's holiday to help the Yes campaign. "But we've been part of a wider movement for change. When the books are written, the vigil will have its place."

The vigil has involved between 20 and 30 people through most of its life, most from Edinburgh, though few of them have stayed involved throughout. There is no party affiliation, no hierarchy, no spokespersons and no voting on policy - every-

thing at their Sunday afternoon meetings is done by consensus.

"This was just ordinary people who felt that they'd had enough," says Ms Grant. "It was just enthusiastic amateurs."

That includes Louis "The Book", an eccentric homeless man who has entertained foreign tourists with his explanations of Scottish politics and slept in the hut at night when boy racers have gathered on Regent Road outside.

John Orr joined the vigil two years ago, after having been pa-

tronically fired up by the film *Braveheart*. "It has been pretty grim through winter, but we believe in this, we have a passion and a vision," he says.

The Scots' idea of talking politics is sitting at home or in the pub, moaning and groaning, whereas here you can have a good chinwag and get a few things off your chest."

"I'm proud of the vigil," adds Gillian Grant. "It's had a lot of media coverage and raised consciousness. But like everything else, it just comes to a natural end."

## Yes vote boost to Welsh economy

Tony Heath

Wales stands to benefit economically from the establishment of an elected assembly, according to a new report.

The report by the Institute of Welsh Affairs, published eight days before Wales goes to the polls, sees fit to widen a debate which so far has been marked by apathy and has shed little light on economic considerations.

The authors Ross MacKay, director of the Institute of Economic Research at the University of Wales, Bangor, and Rick Audas, of Newcastle University, find that over the past two decades prosperity in Wales has declined relative to the rest of the United Kingdom.

Dissecting the formula under which resources are transferred from central government to the regions they conclude: "Regional transfers to Wales are not notably generous when compared with transfers made in other countries for regions at similar levels of relative prosperity."

The location of government influenced both economic and political decisions. The report maintains that it was difficult to reverse the centralising policies of countries like Britain, but

claim that devolution would provide a counterweight to the UK's well-entrenched tendency to accrete power in London.

The disparity between the regions was highlighted, the report points out, by the fact that the South-east of England has a Gross Domestic Product per head ranking of 16th out of 76 European regions, against Wales's 54th place.

In a commentary on the 52-page report Brian Morgan, of the Cardiff Business School and formerly chief economist with the Welsh Development Agency, says that the Welsh Office failed to defend Welsh interests in 1993 when the Government reviewed its development area policy which allocates help to less prosperous areas. Scotland succeeded in keeping its coverage at 46 per cent of the population but in Wales the figure fell from 35 to 15 per cent.

Writing the report's introduction Gerald Holtham, director of the Institute of Public Policy Research, said the document demolishes practically all the economic arguments put up against an assembly. "Given the chance of power to do good it seems extraordinarily pessimistic to reject it [an assem-

bly] on the grounds that it could also do harm."

Meanwhile, the founder of the "Just Say No" campaign launched a bitter attack on the Welsh Office ministerial team working for a "Yes" vote in the referendum. In an interview in the Welsh-language magazine *Bam*, Carlys Pugh, a founder of the "No" campaign attacked Ron Davies, the Secretary of State for Wales, and Peter Hain, a Welsh Office minister.

According to Mrs Pugh, a Labour Party activist from Rhondda, Mr Davies had instructed party members to shut up if they disagreed with the government's devolution plans. "Ron Davies is behaving like Hitler" she told the magazine.

She predicted that if the vote was lost next week Mr Davies and "the grumpy Neath boy" will go. Mr Hain is MP for Neath. He is singled out for special treatment apparently because of his background. He was brought up in South Africa and played a leading role in the Anti-Apartheid Movement when he moved to Britain.

In a joint statement Mr Davies and Mr Hain said the personal attacks "are beneath contempt and we intend making no response".

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## news

Bronze of Newton sets final seal on new British Library



Cherie Booth QC unveils a statue of Sir Isaac Newton, by Sir Edoardo Paolozzi (left), based on an illustration by William Blake, at the new British Library in St Pancras yesterday. The library opens on 24 November. Photograph: Nicola Kurtz

## Cook spells out reform of the Lords

Barrie Clement  
Labour Editor

The Government is to press ahead with the early reform of the "medieval" House of Lords, the TUC congress heard yesterday.

In pointedly "fraternal" address which contrasted with the Prime Minister's stern strictures of Tuesday, Foreign Secretary Robin Cook gave the clearest indication yet that the policy would be set out in the New Year's Queen's Speech.

Mr Cook compared the Upper House with the cast of a Gilbert and Sullivan opera and promised that hereditary peers would lose their vote.

To win applause he said: "By the time we meet again next year, we will be on the verge of putting into practice our commitment to clear that medieval lumber of Parliament and to make it absolutely established in both Houses of Parliament that the people who take part in passing the laws of our country should earn their seat by the process of democracy, not by the right of birth."

In an attempt to find common ground Mr Turner welcomed the TUC's "Partners for Progress" theme this year and believed that there was considerable common ground.

The CBI leader indicated his disagreement with both Thatcherism and old-fashioned trade unionism. There seemed to be a "welcome escape" from the ideological struggles which characterised British politics two or 20 years ago he said.

Echoing a theme of the Prime Minister, Mr Turner emphasised the need for flexibility among employees although conceding, like Mr Blair, that there was an equal need to ensure the "employability" of workers who could no longer look forward to a job for life.

The Foreign Secretary told delegates at the conference in Brighton that the relationship between unions and the Labour Party was not a "tactical alliance"; it was a "strategic bond" which would endure.

He sought to enlist the help of trade unionists to communicate Labour Party policies to working people, a plea unlikely to pass the lips of the Prime Minister.

Mr Turner, only the second director general to address the TUC, made it clear that the CBI was opposed to the government's plan to introduce laws on union recognition.

He argued that it could lead to disputes and might sour industrial relations.

However, he said the CBI would continue in talks with the TUC in an attempt to minimise the danger of conflict and create a "workable" set of rules.

In his speech the Foreign Secretary said he understood Mr Turner's assertion that legislation could lead to tensions.

### You're not in the real world, Blair is told

Barrie Clement

A series of trade union leaders queued up yesterday to throw Tony Blair's appeal to the TUC to modernise and enter "the real world" back in his face.

In a reference to the Prime Minister's speech on Tuesday, Rodney Bickerstaffe, general secretary of the public service union Unison, Britain's largest, urged the government to enter "the real world" over public expenditure.

The normally circumspect Mr Bickerstaffe urged ministers to abandon the dogma inherited from the Conservatives.

He accused the Treasury of espousing a "contorted and distorted" perspective that capital investment in the public infrastructure was not investment, but debt.

"It is not seen that way anywhere else and the government should try and come into line with the real world," he said.

The Public Finance Initiative (PFI), under review by the government, was also part of the dogma which argued that if it's public it's always, always bad and if it's private it's always,

### DAILY POEM

#### Oriental Aubade

By Rainer Maria Rilke  
(translated by Stephen Cohn)

*Within this bed, is this not like a coast?  
a narrow slip of land on which we lie,  
the only certainties your high, firm breasts  
and all my senses dizzy with desire?*

*The night, its sounds, the voices of its creatures,  
the cries of fiercely-ravaging animals –  
how terrible and strange it seems to us:  
when gradually what we call day appears  
is it not (just as night) unknowable?*

*Better if we could always lie as close  
as petals to the stamens in a flower;  
hidden from the violent frenzy everywhere  
increasing, battering, threatening us.*

*But even as we press together tightly  
and keep the crowding menace from our eyes,  
it maybe hides in you or hides in me  
because our spirits live by treachery.*

This week's Daily Poems come from Stephen Cohn's new translation of Rainer Maria Rilke's New Poems, which first appeared in German in 1907-08. Neue Gedichte/New Poems is published by Carcanet (29.95) in a bilingual edition, with an introduction by John Bayley.

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# I didn't act to save Winnie, says Mandela

South Africa's president denies asking Kaunda to detain key witness in Stompie murder case

Mary Braid  
Johannesburg

President Nelson Mandela has denied that he arranged the disappearance of a key witness in the 1991 trial of his former wife Winnie for the kidnap of murdered teenage activist Stompie Seipei Moketsi.

As the African National Congress struggles to contain claims that Mrs Mandela murdered activists during her notorious bodyguards' reign of terror in Soweto in the late 1980s, President Mandela dismissed comments by former Zambian president Kenneth Kaunda in a new book that the president asked him to detain the witness Katiza Cebekhulu at a Lusaka prison. Mr Cebekhulu disappeared on the eve of Mrs Mandela's trial.

In the book, *Katiza's Journey Beneath the Surface of South Africa's Shame*, by British journalist Fred Bridgland, Mr Cebekhulu – now in hiding in Britain – claims that Mrs Mandela, found guilty in 1992 of kidnapping Stompie, 14, actually killed the boy.

Mr Cebekhulu, a former member of Mrs Mandela's bodyguards – the Mandela United Football Club – claims he saw Mrs Mandela stab Stompie after accusing him of being a police informer. Stompie was found in a ditch in 1989 with his throat cut. Jerry Richardson, the "captain" of Mrs Mandela's club, was later jailed for the boy's murder.

In a BBC documentary, based on the book and screened in South Africa and Britain on Tuesday, two other Soweto families accused the "Mother of the Nation" of being involved in the

disappearance or deaths of children. She was also implicated in the death of a Soweto doctor, Abu Baker Asvat.

While many in the ANC leadership regard Mrs Mandela as an embarrassment, her huge grassroots popularity called for a public show of solidarity yesterday. Mrs Mandela has risen from the ashes of her divorce and kidnap conviction.

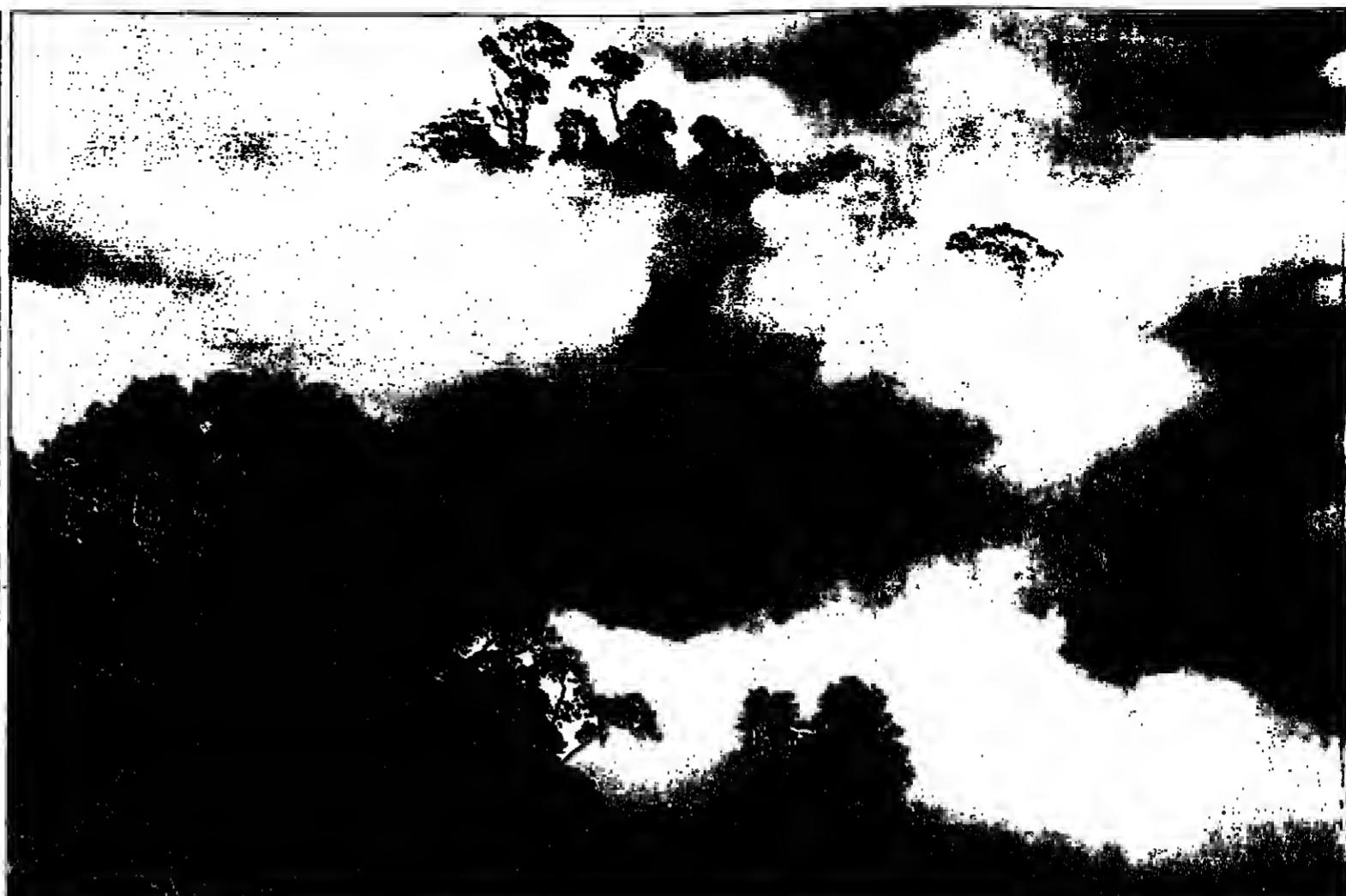
Currently president of the ANC Women's League, she is a frontrunner to become the party's new deputy president, when her former husband gives up leadership of

the ANC. On Tuesday, just hours before the documentary was screened, Mrs Mandela gave a rare press conference to deny the allegations. While the documentary painted a portrait of a cruel, violent and unstable woman, Mrs Mandela casts herself as victim. While Bridgland claims the ANC and National Party covered Winnie's murderous tracks to keep the fragile process of political transition on track, Mrs Mandela claims the police tortured prisoners to frame her.

On Tuesday she said she had watched in "painful silence" as her character and contribution to South Africa's democracy was butchered in the media. "I have seen confused panic in my grandchildren's tearful eyes, attempting to work out whether I am the demon I am portrayed."

Mrs Mandela has shunned the TRC's invitation to testify in private, and is insisting on a public hearing. "I intend to bare my soul to the scrutiny of my country," she said. "I beg that these issues be tested by the vigilance of the public."

Mr Cebekhulu has applied to the TRC for amnesty. The commission can grant indemnity to those who committed politically motivated crimes in return for full confessions. The TRC has



Out of the woods: More than 69,000 hectares of rainforest in Sarawak has been reprieved by the freeze on development. Photograph: Planet Earth

## Malaysia's slump saves the forest

Matthew Chance  
Kuala Lumpur

Malaysia has confirmed it is halting construction on its biggest infrastructure projects in a dramatic move to slash public spending. The cancelled projects include the building of a new capital city outside Kuala Lumpur at a cost of 20 billion ringgit (£4.5bn).

Anwar Ibrahim, Malaysia's deputy prime minister and finance chief, said yesterday that several other "mega-projects" will also be frozen for an unspecified period. Among them are the controversial M\$15bn (£4.5bn) Bakun Dam in Sarawak,

which environmentalists say would destroy more than 69,000

hectares of rainforest, displace thousands of people and produce little economic benefit.

The economically dubious Linear City Project, which aimed to construct the world's longest building at a cost of more than M\$10bn, is also to be placed on hold.

Only last month, Mahathir Mohamad, the prime minister, was urging Malaysian businessmen to "think big". The grandiose projects were all part of his "Vision 2020", an ambitious programme to lift Malaysia on to a new level of economic development by the year 2020.

The abandonment of these enormous schemes in the face of a major economic down-

turn, which has been caused in part by investors' fears that the country is overstretching itself, is likely to meet a favourable response on the financial markets.

Over recent weeks, billions of dollars have been wiped off Malaysia's stock markets and the value of the ringgit has plummeted. But the cutbacks constitute a personal humiliation for Dr Mahathir, whose vision of a 21st-century high-tech Malaysia is now receding.

Central to his plans for a competitive, post-industrial Malaysia is the M\$30bn "Multimedia Super Corridor", a 750sq km area of high-tech industries modelled on California's Silicon Valley.

At the heart of this scheme,

which was to incorporate an advanced interconnecting digital network to attract high-tech investors, was to be Putrajaya, a new Malaysian capital city of unprecedented technological development. The decision to freeze construction on Putrajaya after completion of only the first phase of the city was the only surprise announcement in the package of austerity measures.

The development of a regional airport in the northern state of Kedah was also put on hold, while the armed forces were warned of stringent budget cuts over the coming months.

Several major infrastructure projects are still going ahead. A new M\$9bn international

# SSSHH.

A sophisticated diesel  
should be serene and not heard.

## international

# Keeper of the island fortress



Rauf Denktas (left), warns of his determination to counter Greek moves to integrate Cyprus into the EU, in an interview with Christopher de Bellaigue

Nicosia — Diplomats struggling to get Cyprus's Greeks and Turks to settle their differences all knock on the door of the Turkish Cypriot leader, Rauf Denktas. But most come away with a flea in their ear. It was Mr Denktas who persuaded Turkey to invade Cyprus in 1974, when Greek nationalists threatened to unite the island to Greece. Since 1983, when he was first elected president of what Turkish Cypriots and mainland Turks call the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, Mr Denktas has embodied intransigence on the subject.

From his handsome house in a suburb built by Cyprus's former British rulers, Mr Denktas fulminates against foreign diplomatic ignorance: "I am spending my time explaining this problem to people who know nothing about it." The unenlightened rule him on two counts. They refuse to recognise the legitimacy of his statelet, and support Glafoos Clerides — Mr Denktas's Greek Cypriot counterpart — in his drive to shoehorn Cyprus, including the bit run by Mr Denktas, into the European Union. Once to the EU, he fears, Turkish Cypriots would be buried under the Greeks' numerical and economic superiority.

Supported by Turkey, Mr Denktas appears content to be president of his little territory. His pan-Turkic nationalism goes down well with the immigrant Turks who have settled on the island in large numbers since 1974.

He denies Turkish Cypriots are different from mainland Turks. "If that idea should spread," he warns, "we will become estranged from Turkey and become cattle feed for the Greeks." This distrust — prevalent on the Greek side of the island, too — is unwelcome to the mediators. "This guy doesn't want a settlement," one said.

Mr Denktas insists he does. "If the EU comes to its senses and does not bait us, we can go on talking," he says, referring to a tetchy encounter he had with Mr Clerides in Switzerland last month. He wants the EU to delay talks on Cyprus's accession until Turkey —

Turkish Cypriots' guarantor under the deal granting Cyprus independence in 1959 — joins the EU. The EU insists it will negotiate Cyprus's accession next year. "In that case, the talks will end and the island will remain two states," Mr Denktas says he is determined to meet every Greek move to integrate Cyprus with the EU with initiatives to bind his bit of the island with Turkey.

"If this was a question of resolving personal differences with Clerides, this would have been sorted out years ago."

He may be right. The two leaders have more in common than a roundish profile; both attended the British School in Nicosia. Those were the days when children from both communities played together and knew the other's language. But Mr Denktas remains dry-eyed. "I had Greek friends and we would go out drinking together. But these were not meaningful friendships; we never talked about politics."

Just as well, for Mr Denktas defends his corner stoutly, as Sir David Hannay, Britain's mediator on Cyprus, is aware. Mention Britain's former ambassador to the United Nations, and Mr Denktas wrinkles his nose. "I hope Hannay doesn't come back. If he does, I shan't talk to him."

A second British knight, Sir John Weston, would also not be welcomed with a signed compendium of photographs taken by Mr Denktas. Sir John, British president of the UN Security Council, forfeited this privilege after last month's talks, when he criticised "preconditions" Mr Denktas brought to the negotiating table.

Right now, the British whom Mr Denktas dislikes most are those manning the two sovereign bases retained after independence. Two days before our audience, British soldiers intercepted three Turkish Cypriot farmers smuggling 400 goats and sheep from the south into the north. On the recommendation of a Greek vet the animals were put down. "Greeks and British hand in hand," declared a local Turkish paper. Mr Denktas, his broody look suggests, agrees wholeheartedly.



Worlds apart: A Turkish watchtower with a metal silhouette looking out over the buffer zone on to an area near Ayia Napa, in the Greek section of Cyprus, which has been divided since 1974. Photograph: Nicola Kurtz

## significant shorts

### Clinton urges Congress to put him on fast-track

President Bill Clinton yesterday inaugurated the new political term by making a formal request to Congress to enhance his power to negotiate international trade agreements.

Mr Clinton wants Congress to restore what is called his "fast-track authority": the president's right to reach trade agreements with foreign states without having every dot and comma subject to Congressional amendment. This "fast-track authority" lapsed when the Republicans, fresh from their victory in the 1994 congressional elections, declined to renew it.

Mr Clinton says that he needs the power to conclude new free trade agreements with a number of Asian and South American countries — chief among them Chile, but also Brazil, Argentina, which he will visit next month. He says it would demonstrate US commitment to free trade.

Mary Dejevsky — Washington

### Russians display royal archives

Archives documenting the murder of Russia's last tsar, including rare photographs of Tsar Nicholas II and his family and telegrams sent by the Bolsheviks recording their execution in 1918, went on display in Moscow. They were given back to Russia by Liechtenstein's ruler Prince Hans-Adam. He exchanged the documents for his own family's archive, which was seized by Red Army troops at the end of the Second World War.

Reuters — Moscow

### Bosnians ordered to vote

Bosnia's parties came under heavy international pressure to go through with this weekend's municipal elections, jeopardised by the mounting tension between rival factions of Bosnian Serbs.

The International High Representative on civilian affairs, Carlos Westendorp, held crisis talks with the leader of one of the two Serb factions, Momcilo Krajkovic, in a meeting hosted in Belgrade by the Yugoslav President, Slobodan Milosevic. Mr Krajkovic was trapped in a hotel in Banja Luka for several hours on Tuesday after trying in vain to organise a demonstration against his rival, Biljana Plavsic.

Andrew Gumbel

### Iran goes nuts over trade ban

The head of Iran's nut exporting body accused the European Union of banning imports of Iranian pistachios under pressure from the United States. "They want to replace us in the world pistachio market," said Mohammad Hassan Shams of the Dried Nuts Association in Tehran. The EU announced the ban on Iranian pistachios because of fears of contamination. Pistachios are Iran's largest non-oil export after carpets.

Reuters — Tehran

### Flamingo's fatal leg-up

A four-year-old pink flamingo believed to be the first of its species to be fitted with an artificial leg had to be put down after he refused to eat, zoo officials said. The flamingo's condition deteriorated in the three weeks since he was fitted with a plastic prosthesis. The officials said that the artificial limb did not have a joint, making it impossible for the bird to lie down.

Reuters — Chicago

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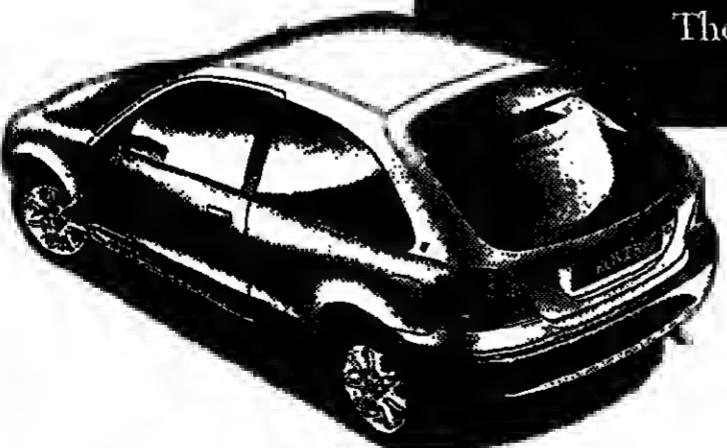
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## obituaries / gazette

# Professor Leon Edel

Leon Edel, biographer and editor of Henry James, was the foremost Jamesian scholar of his age and played an important part in rescuing the novelist from the indifference of British readers and the hostility of those American critics who believed that James had betrayed his birthright in turning his back on his native land and in taking British nationality.

Edel, like James, was a cosmopolitan. Born in Pittsburgh in 1907, he went to McGill University, Montreal, at the early age of 16 and there first became obsessed by Henry James. Having taken his degree, he won a scholarship to the Sorbonne, where he earned a doctorate for a dissertation on Henry James's theoretical years. While still a student, he visited Edith Wharton at Saint Brice in search of information about James's plays and about Walter Berry, a mutual friend of hers and James's.

She knew nothing about the plays and was defensive about Berry, suspecting Edel of being a "publishing scoundrel". But she soon warmed to him and a few years later, when recommending him for a Guggenheim Fellowship, remarked with unusual prescience, for he had written little yet to warrant it, that he had "the sympathy and understanding which are necessary to lift a work of erudition to the level of literature".

During the Second World War he served as an intelligence officer in the United States forces, and afterwards as Chief of Information Control, News Agency, in the US Zone of Occupation from 1946 to 1947. At this time Rupert Hart-Davis was just setting up his own publishing firm. He was to open his account in February 1947 with *Fourteen Stories* by Henry James edited by his partner David Garnett, and was planning other reprints. He suggested to Theodora Bosanquet, James's last secretary, that he should reprint her little book *Henry James at Work*. She demurred



Edel: magnificent obsession

but recommended "a brilliant young American" who had written a thesis on James in French, Lieutenant J.L. Edel.

Hart-Davis got in touch with him, and eventually they met in New York, where Edel was living in a flat that looked out on to the United Nations building, and earning a living by reporting his proceedings and writing reviews in an evening paper. Although he had briefly held an assistant professorship at Montreal before the war, he found that his French doctorate was of little help in persuading anyone to give him a new post. It was not until 1952 that he got back into teaching, first at Princeton and then with various professorships at New York University, where his career was crowned in 1966 with a Henry James Professorship created especially for him.

Meanwhile Hart-Davis had signed him up only for an edition of James's plays, for which he already had an American contract, and which came out in 1949, but also for a new biography of the novelist. The first volume appeared in 1953, the second not until 1962. They earned him excellent reviews, and in the following year he was awarded both the \$1,000 National Book Award and a Pulitzer Prize.

The biography had originally been envisaged as two volumes, but when the first one was finished Edel realised that he would need two more to complete the job, and so on with each succeeding volume, until there were five in all, the last and longest not appearing until 1972. By this time the work was being hailed, in V.S. Pritchett's words, as "a masterpiece of the biographer's art". Edel had succeeded in making a life in which "nothing happened" as enthralling as anything in Dumas.

This was a remarkable achievement because James had gone out of his way to cover his tracks. In 1903 he made a great bonfire of his papers, and he revealed himself more than he could help in his own letters, which he urged his recipients, without much success, to "burn, burn, burn". Edel's pertinacity, cunning and luck in uncovering these tracks, together with the sheer fun of the chase, provide an entertaining chapter in his *Library Biography* (1957).

Edel was a stalwart defender of the biographical approach to literary criticism, which he rescued from banality by taking into account the writer's interior life, trying to disengage "the essence of a life... from the external clutter of days and years". His approach was always

psychological. He had been interested in psychology and psychoanalysis ever since he visited Alfred Adler in Vienna in 1930, and he himself had been successfully psychoanalysed to remove a serious writer's block when he came out of the army. His study *The Psychological Novel* was published in 1955 and *Staff of Sleep and Dreams*, what he called "Experiments in Literary Psychology", in 1982.

He was never tempted to imitate his Master's style but tackled complex subjects with exemplary clarity and wrote a limpid prose in which the anachronisms of the quotations from James stand out like rocks in a mountain stream. A younger colleague once confessed sadly that he tried to write like Edel but "somehow it always turns out different".

He made many other contributions to Jamesian scholarship, edited collections of James's writings on the novel and on the theatre and his *Complete Tales* in 12 volumes in 1962-64. He brought out James's *Selected Letters* (1956) and a more comprehensive collection of *Letters* in four volumes in 1974-84. He also edited Henry's sister Alice's diaries (1965), and with the energetic help of Dan H. Laurence he compiled a *Bibliography of Henry James* (1957). He wrote prefaces to the Bodley Head Henry James in 11 volumes (1967-74) and to several reprints of James's novels.

He published books on other authors, including James Joyce in 1947 and Willa Cather, completing E.K. Brown's life of her, in 1953. He edited four volumes of Edmund Wilson's diaries (1976-86) and wrote *Bloomsbury: a house of lions* (1979). This is a good general view of the group, but none of these books has quite the authority of his work on James. James was his fief and his preserve.

In 1976, 60 years after James's death, his great-nephew Alexander James unveiled a plaque to him in Westminster Abbey. Edel was called upon to give an address. It was the culmination of all that he had worked for.

Meanwhile in 1972 he had left New York to take up a professorship in Hawaii. There he spent the rest of his life, continuing to write and revise his work and indulging his fondness for swimming. During his academic career he served on many committees, held many visiting professorships and was rewarded with numerous honours; even his contributions to psychology were marked by honorary membership of a psychiatric institute and the American Institute for Psychoanalysis.

There was much talk of James and of Edel when I was visiting Anthony and Violet Powell in the summer of 1973 – they admired his biography, but had never met him. I said I'd love to arrange a meeting when Leo came over next – but I'd no idea when that might be. There had also been some grumbling from Tony about critics of his own novels who clearly felt a hit out of his

Richard Garnett

I first met Leon Edel in the early 1950s with Rupert Hart-Davis, who had recently published my book on the friendship between Henry James and Robert Louis Stevenson. So I was accepted as an ally in their mission to bring James back to the centre of the literary scene with Rupert publishing. Leon editing short stories, plays, letters, and finally producing the magnificent biography.

Our three-cornered friendship later extended to include June Hart-Davis, Leon's third wife Marjorie and my husband John Carlton – flourished in Soho Square, the Garrick, my house and, after Rupert's retirement, at Marske in the Yorkshire dales. Wherever we were, whatever other topics came up – and Leon had a wide range of interests – the talk would come round at last to Henry James. I really believe that Leon – wearing a ring that had once belonged to the Master! – felt by immersing himself so deeply in James's life and thought something of their essence had been transmitted to him. "Even in death," he once wrote me, "the biographer makes demands on biographer."

When I was teaching in New York in the Sixties, and Leon was a professor at New York University, we often met in the lively and hospitable home of John and Phyllis Gordan. John was curator of the Berg Collection of the New York Library and discoverer of the manuscript of *The Waste Land*. My

depth and seemed more at ease talking about protest movements on the college campus. A donnée for a James short story?

Announcing one of his rare

later visits to London from Honolulu, "I hope you will dine with me," Leon wrote, "and we will fate our reunion and share our shoulders at Time."

*Joseph Leon Edel, English scholar and writer, born Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 9 September 1907; Assistant Professor, Sir George Williams University, Montreal 1932-34; Adjunct Professor, New York University 1950-53; Associate Professor 1953-55; Professor of English 1955-66; Henry James Professor of English and American Letters 1966-73 (Emeritus); FRSL 1970; Citizens Professor of English, University of Hawaii 1972-78 (Emeritus); married 1935 Bertha Cohen (marriage dissolved 1950), 1950 Roberta Roberts (marriage dissolved 1979), 1980 Marjorie Sinclair; died Honolulu 6 September 1997.*



Henry James in 1900: In a lifetime of James scholarship, Edel edited his letters and plays, collected his miscellaneous works and wrote a five-volume biography  
Photograph: ANG Photo

said he overdid the coincidences. Back in London next day I found a message – Leon was shortly arriving! It wasn't possible to have a meeting that year, but when Leon came over for the James memorial in Westminster Abbey in 1976, he and the Powells had lunch with me, and we wrote afterwards of "the delight and apparently inexhaustible substance of our talk". The ghost of Henry James had hovered over the table.

Next day we were all in the abbey for the unveiling, by Henry James's great-nephew, of the plaque in Poets' Corner. I had asked Arthur Crook and me to lunch afterwards. Meeting Leon on our way out, she invited him to join us – and when he complained he was giving lunch to Alexander James, she invited him too. So there we were, enjoying an excellent lunch at the Ritz – four elders devoted to the Master and the young kinsman who clearly felt a hit out of his

depth and seemed more at ease talking about protest movements on the college campus. A donnée for a James short story?

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# General Sir John Hackett

Under the extreme pressure of battle, John Hackett could bring both his powerful intellect and prodigious courage to the fore. In command of the 4th Parachute Brigade at Arnhem he fought alongside his men in hand-to-hand combat, knowing before the battle commenced that they were doomed by their planning.

Severely injured by a shell splinter, he was taken to an enemy-held hospital where the German surgeon considered that it would be a waste of time to operate. His life was saved by a South African surgeon. Soon after the operation he was told that, unless he could walk out of the hospital, he would soon be taken prisoner. With his head in a blood-stained bandage, he escaped and was hidden by a Dutch family at considerable risk to themselves.

At the end of what he considered a full and exciting war, he was awarded the DSO and Bar as well as an MC.

"Shan" Hackett was born in Perth, Western Australia, in 1910. His father, also Sir John Winthrop Hackett, who was of Irish descent, owned two newspapers. He was educated at Geelong Grammar School, after which he studied painting at the Central School of Art in London before attending New College, Oxford, where he read both Greek and Modern History under Richard Crossman.

He had hoped to become a don, but his degree was not good enough, so he joined his great-grandfather's old regiment, the 8th King's Royal Irish Hussars. However, he continued his academic studies as a subaltern and his thesis on Saladin and the Third Crusade earned him a BLitt. He also qualified as an interpreter in French and German and later, while serving with the Italian



Hackett meets a student demo, 1974  
Photograph: Hulton Getty

cavalry, added Italian. In 1937, while serving with the Trans-Jordan Frontier Force (TJFF), he became fluent in Arabic.

At the start of the Second World War he was still serving with the TJFF and in 1941 took part in the Syrian campaign, where he was wounded and awarded the MC.

Recovering from his wounds, he met his wife-to-be, an Austrian living in Palestine, while walking by the shores of the Sea of Galilee. Although she was classed as an enemy, he was determined to marry her. Advised by many not to do so, he married her in 1942 in St George's Cathedral, Jerusalem. What followed was 55 years of happiness.

He rejoined his old regiment in the Western Desert where he was again wounded and awarded a DSO. While recovering from his wounds, he was on the staff of GHQ in Cairo, where T.E. Lawrence had spent a little time, in the First World War. Here Hackett was at his most creative, re-organising the raiding forces, such as the Long Range Desert Group and David Stirling's SAS as well as raising and naming "Popoki's Private Army". These small, highly mobile forces would engage the enemy behind their lines and then disappear back into the desert, only to reappear 500 miles further away, to strike again. Hackett knew from his desert experiences much about the war of the flea – how to sting in awkward places and make life uncomfortable for the enemy. He instinctively recognised the boldness and unorthodoxy of these units and was at one with their intellectual atmosphere. He had earned their respect.

Now at his peak, he was not a man to be behind a desk and, at the age of 33, he was selected to raise, train and command the 4th Parachute Brigade,

In 1947, he returned to Palestine to command the TJP, where he had the awkward task of disbanding the armed forces after the end of the British mandate and the creation of Israel. While there, he would spend his leave in Austria and in fact spent a term at Graz University in post-graduate medieval studies.

He returned to Western Europe to become Commander of the 20th Armoured Brigade, and in 1960 was appointed General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of Northern Ireland. He was then moved to the Ministry of Defence as Deputy Chief of the General Staff, responsible for organisation and weapons development.

His rapid wit and inability to suffer fools, especially senior officers, made him enemies. But he tenaciously kept to his course, in spite of realising that the ultimate crown, the Chief of Defence, would be denied him. He was, however, promoted General and took command of the Rhine Army and with it the parallel appointment of Commander Northern Army Group from 1966 to 1968.

On his retirement in 1968, he became Principal of King's College London. He was a natural leader and much at home in the academic world. As with the young officers of former years, he was able to understand the undergraduate mind and it was characteristic of him that he should join the student marches through London in 1974. Bowler-hatted and carrying an umbrella, he was, as always, at the front facing the flak.

After his retirement from King's – to which he returned as a Visiting Professor in Classics from 1977 – he devoted himself to writing and lecturing full-time. He was a superb speaker, clear and forthright, but never pompous. He became known to a wider world through his appearances on television and radio.

It was through this medium that people began to change their opinion of senior members of the British army. He rapidly displaced the image of Colonel Blimp and replaced him with an image of a quicksilver mind, full of compassion and understanding, as well as a master of strategy.

In 1978 he wrote *The Third World War*, a work of imagination about the possible outcome of a global war in 1985. The book sold over 3 million copies. In 1982 *The Third World War: the untold story* proved an interesting update predicting the disintegration of the Soviet Union and the strategic importance of oil in the Middle East. The following year, he wrote a well-received television series and book on the British army called *The Profession of Arms*. He also edited *Warfare in the Ancient World* (1989).

Max Arthur

*John Winthrop Hackett, soldier and scholar, born Perth, Scotland 5 November 1910; MBE 1938; CBE 1953; MC 1941; DSO 1942 and bar 1945; CB 1958; KCB 1962; GCB 1967; Commandant Royal Military College of Science, 1958-61; GOC-in-C Northern Ireland Command 1961-63; Deputy Chief of Imperial General Staff 1963-64; Deputy Chief of the General Staff, Ministry of Defence 1964-66; Commander-in-Chief BAOR and Commander Northern Army Group in Nato 1966-68; ADC (General) to the Queen 1967-68; Principal, King's College London 1968-73; President, UK Classical Association 1971; President, UK English Association 1973; FRSL 1982; married 1942 Margaret Frene (one daughter deceased, two stepdaughters); died 9 September 1997.*

Max Arthur

yards, once the home of another Fergusson, Professor Adam Ferguson, the philosopher father of Walter Scott's friend Adam, who introduced Scott to the local celebrity, the Black Dwarf.

After medical school at King's College London, Ferguson enrolled in the RNVR. His wartime career was spent largely on convoy duty in the North Atlantic, his duties as ship's doctor doubling with that of cellarman and, for the Normandy landings, photographer. Photography remained one of his preoccupations.

His medical career resumed after the Second World War at the Westminster Hospital, and it was at Westminster Children's Hospital that he met his future wife, Alison Miles, also a doctor and the child of a Rear-Admiral; they were married in 1951, shortly after which Ferguson went into partnership with Dr Fraser Carey, in a general practice based initially on Connaught Square in an area much bombed which was to be reborn as the "Tybun Estate", the Church Commissioners' contribution to post-war town planning north and

Death

He would certainly have practised to the end, if a year after the cruel early death of his wife in 1990, rheumatoid arthritis had not immobilised him. During two months in hospital for a pair of new hips, he decided to retire.

Death, when it came, was quick. He had gone into hospital for nothing grave, it seemed, and died just five days after the death of his favourite artist, Carel Weight. He was reading the latest volume of diaries by his cousin James Lees-Milne.

James Ferguson  
*Patrick Drummond Ferguson, medical practitioner, born Portsmouth 22 June 1919; married 1951 Dr Alison Miles (died 1990; one son, two daughters); died London 18 August 1997.*

Sabatino Moscati, archaeologist, died Rome 8 September, aged 74. Discovered the Punic city of Mount Sirai in Sardinia and Punic fortresses in Tunisia and Sicily.

Richie Ashburn, baseball player, died Philadelphia 9 Sep-

tember, aged 70. Batting champion for the Philadelphia Phillies 1948-59.

Abdullah Al-Turraiki, politician, died Cairo, aged 80. A founder of Opec in 1960, when he became Saudi Arabia's first oil minister.

**ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS**  
Prince Edward, President, Commonwealth Games Federation, attended the General Assembly in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. Princess Alexandra visits Aberdeen University. Dr David H. Smith, of the Royal College of Ophthalmology, "for the benefit of the Royal Society of Medicine", at the Medical School, Edinburgh.

**Changing of the Guard**  
The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards.

## Deaths, Births, Marriages & Deaths

For Gazette, please telephone 0171-253 2511, or fax to 0171-253 2511.

Forthcoming marriages  
Dr J.C. L. Booth and Dr L.A. Fearfield  
The engagement is announced between Jonathan, son of Sir Christopher Booth and of Dr Lavina Loughridge, both of London, and Louise, daughter of Mr Michael

Fearfield, of Ripley, North Yorkshire, and of Mrs Angela Fearfield, of London, Cumbria.  
Birthdays  
Professor Norman Ashton, pathologist, 84; Mr Franz Beckenbauer, footballer, 52; Sir Austin Bide, former president Glaxo, 82; Dame Margaret Booth, former High Court judge, 64; Mr Paul Cole, racehorse trainer, 56; Mrs Mary Fagan, Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire, 58; Sir Bernard Feilden, architect, 78; Mr Eddie George, Governor, Bank of England, 59;

# Yes, yes is the best and bravest answer

If *The Independent* had a Scottish electoral address, it would be voting yes today. Twice yes; yes to an elected assembly and yes to its having limited tax-raising powers. Devolution is a matter of principle. It is a way of protecting citizens against an over-centralised state. Relocating the power to decide is a way of bringing more people into the business of self-government, bolstering democracy and improving decision-making. Hard decisions, for example about taxing and spending, may not get easier the closer they are taken to people but they are more valid, since they get made in conditions of greater trust between government and governed.

There is also a particular British case for devolving power from Westminster. Britain is bottom-heavy; too much clout rests in the far south of its main island. The Palace of Westminster and its bureaucratic servants try to do too much about too many parts of the nation about which they know too little. Indeed, an Edinburgh parliament could improve governance in Penzance as well as Peterhead. It would reduce the load on the Commons and the Westminster executive; it would promote experiment and better recognise the truth that plural government is not only healthier but eventually likely to be more effective than monolithic administration.

Britain is pretty new. A version of Britain – especially a version of Anglo-Scottish relations – was made in the 18th century. In the 21st century it may come to take very different forms indeed. Britain was always a means to an end – the unified polity exists in order to improve the lives of citizens from Plymouth to Inverness, in part by assuring their identity and protecting them against conflict. All that will, we think, be helped by recognising that Scotland is a genuine British nation with a valid claim to self-government. This may or may not throw up questions about English nationality and self-government but there is no necessary reason why it need destroy a political entity called Britain, with its rich common heritage and mingled populations.

There is, to be sure, a "Scottish" case for devolution grounded in history, identity and a lingering belief that the Act of Union was not a final settlement of the Scots' relationship with the rest of Great Britain. The referendum is Scotland's rather belated rendezvous with modernity, the point at which its history flows into that of Europe and the wider world. A self-governing Scotland within a United Kingdom framework "fits" the modern frame. Federalism does not of course explain the success of the United States but its internal pluralism

and readiness for experiment is a vital ingredient in that great nation's energy and innovativeness. Spain now flourishes so self-confidently partly because Galicians and Catalans have a grip on their destiny. The political stability of modern Germany hinges on the fact that Munich is home to a prime minister, who is no less German than the chancellor of Bonn. Meanwhile small nations blossom, from Estonia to Ireland, not pretending to autarky or financial independence but exulting in their capacity for autonomous politics and self-expression free of neighbouring



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hegemonies. The intellectual failure of all those 19th-century nationalisms – including that spoken by the Scottish National Party – is to see "independence" as the be-all and end-all of their political life. No nation, large or small, can escape the international division of labour or those processes of trade and capital investment conveniently labelled globalisation: now is the time, above all, for economic and financial alliances and unions. What the referendum offers Scotland is self-government within those inescapable bounds. For too long Scotland has wallowed in a culture of

political dependency. Political attitudes north of the border have often been juvenile: blame somebody else, blame Westminster, blame the English. Nursery politics have prevailed, with the implicit threat that unless higher levels of spending are delivered, Scots would throw a tantrum and start breaking up the furniture. Psychologically, this has had a deleterious effect on the Scottish political temperament and manufactured an enervating culture of complaint. Has Scotland, through the latter half of this century, been the country of can-do and self-reliance it was once celebrated for? Hardly. Voting yes for a parliament but no to financial powers would perpetuate this.

Self-government is not an easy option. The polls have been indicating that many Scots do not wish to face up to it, some of them perhaps preferring the whingeing life. That is why today's vote is a critical test of a nation and the political maturity of its inhabitants. It is a test, too, of the party which has for so long been dominant in Scotland. Labour stumbled into the Constitutional Convention and ambled into the election commitment which, with admirable speed, it has now placed before the residents of Scotland. That the party has pledged that the

assembly be returned on the basis of proportional representation is a tribute to the political pluralism of Scotland itself, and now of the Blair era. It is hard to see how the creation of an assembly could spell anything but trouble for the existing Labour set-up in Scotland; it could and should spell the end of Labour's stranglehold on west central Scotland, symbolised so handily by party politics in Paisley. It seems hard to believe, too, that the other parties, including the SNP and the Liberal Democrats, would not be drastically shaken up by the opportunities an assembly would give to reflect what is after all an internally diverse country with marked differences between its regions and its interest groups.

It is that fact that has led some commentators, not necessarily cynics, to wonder whether the people of Scotland do want more politics, even the opportunity for a new and different domestic politics. Won't they prefer the quiet life, the easier life of blaming and bemoaning? Our sense, and our wish, is that Scottish voters will take the adult part and seize, enthusiastically and realistically, the option offered them today for home rule. It could be a disaster. It could also be the beginning of the rebirth of a vibrant, energetic, happy land. But that will, or should, be up to the Scots.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Britain at its best and worst for Diana

Sir: On the streets of Britain for all of last week we were witnesses to a moral rebirth and a beautiful cleansing, where decency, patience, good humour and tolerance were reassured.

Can this be the same Britain whose viperous spivs kick a schoolboy to death on a London street just because he is black, and whose soccer followers frequently disgrace a great nation?

The classless Britain that was so evident on the streets last week was so different: we saw a nation happy to be decent and unashamed of its grief – a nation of which Diana would have been proud.

Britain, take a bow.  
PADDY FARREN  
Burrisport, Co Donegal

Sir: For all my adult life I have been in favour of this country becoming a republic. This has not stopped me also being in favour of fairness, and I have been appalled by the injustice of the public attitude to the Royal Family, particularly the Queen, during the last week.

Whatever the grief felt by the public, it can only have been a fraction of that felt by two young boys losing their mother in such traumatic circumstances. Of course the Queen's first priority was to join in a family effort to help them cope. Expecting her to abandon this task in order to symbolically hold the public's band was selfish, childish and insensitive. Did those who professed such devotion to the Princess of Wales really consider that it would help her sons to hear their father and grandmother criticised so savagely?

If the public truly wants the monarchy to continue it had better pull its collective socks up. Otherwise it may be that nobody will want to take on the job of being the monarch, and who could blame them?

JANET TINBERGEN  
Oxford

Sir: I agree with Jack O'Sullivan ("Diana's devotees join the new religion", 8 September) when he notes a new spirit about in the wake of Diana's life and death.

However, it is not new and it is not a religion. In the perceived absence of any supernatural being "up there" watching over us, many more people now believe that we must get to know and love ourselves and be in touch with our feelings, in order to watch over each other. Incidentally, this search is almost a compulsive one for anyone, like Diana, who has lacked love or been otherwise damaged in childhood.

I don't know why Jack O'Sullivan wants to give the name New Protestantism to this secular set of values. It already has a name – humanism.

ANGELA WILLIAMS  
Newbury, Berkshire

Sir: The often-heard argument that the monarchy is preferable to having some superannuated politician (why so?) as president (Letters, 9, 10 September) misses an important point.

A presidency changes on a regular basis, and with it the surrounding hierarchy of dependent supporters. Over time different groups of people have access to the seats of power. Some would be more successful than others, but none could last for ever.

In contrast, the monarchy has long formed the pinnacle of an ever-present, self-serving Establishment, a dead weight.



inhibiting the modernisation and liberalisation of British society.  
PATRICIA GRAHAM  
Tonbridge, Kent

Sir: Marjorie Hembury (Letters, 9 September) cites the Royal Family's descent from William the Conqueror as grounds for supporting the monarchy. Surely that is the precise reason for all self-respecting Scots, Picts, Britons and Anglo-Saxons to exile them.

TOM BERWICK  
Dover, Kent

Sir: Since the funeral much has been said about the motives underlying Earl Spencer's tribute to the Princess of Wales. Of course it was both calculated and charged with personal bitterness and anger; those are the very reasons why it was so powerful. Beside it, all the platitudes about the life and death of Diana pale into insignificance.

ALISON EVANS  
London SW13

Sir: As a British Scot, I would like to suggest a campaign for an English Parliament. Westminster is Britain's parliament. Now there is talk of parliaments or national assemblies for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. What of England? If that is the case surely the English deserve their own question times and committees to serve their national needs. Let us either dedicate time for the four countries of the Union including England within the British parliament, or have national parliaments for each of these countries and a new fifth all-British assembly.

English complacency about devolution is to be found mainly in the South-east. In Northumberland, still peppered with fortified buildings from the era of border raiding, we can see the difficulties ahead – although they will surely be dealt with peacefully. If there is a different tax rate, with Scots paying more, who pays for the extra services needed by those

who will leave Coldstream and move the quarter mile to Cornhill on Tweed across the border? Other contingencies may suck people across the border to Scotland.

The Scots look likely to get their parliament and that is right, but the Government must accelerate proposals for a regional assembly in the North-east. Such an assembly would be best placed to deal with a Scottish parliament and sort out the new relationship.

JON SUTCLIFFE  
London SW16

Sir: As a British Scot, I would like to suggest a campaign for an English Parliament. Westminster is Britain's parliament. Now there is talk of parliaments or national assemblies for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. What of England? If that is the case surely the English deserve their own question times and committees to serve their national needs. Let us either dedicate time for the four countries of the Union including England within the British parliament, or have national parliaments for each of these countries and a new fifth all-British assembly.

As a Scot who now lives in England I have found that many southern English people are amazingly insular and ignorant of anywhere outside London and the

believe, albeit subconsciously, the suppression which comes from the confusion here and abroad between what is English and what is British. Perhaps this contributes to a lack of understanding of the feelings of national identity in the other countries of the Union. It does not help Britain. A United Kingdom of invigorated partners is possible, but we will need courage to go further than the current plans.

DR DAVID REILLY  
Kirchnillach, Strathclyde

Sir: As an Englishman I leave the question of devolution to the Scots, but those Scottish politicians who seem themselves leading a Scottish parliament might do well to consider the words of Sir Walter Scott in *The Heart of Midlothian*, when a character reflects on the disappearance of a Scottish parliament with the Act of Union:

"Iken, when we had ... parliament-men o' our ain, we could ay peeble them wi' stanes when they were nae gude bairns ... But metaboys' nails can reach the length o' Lunnon."

DAVID BRODMORE  
West Malling, Kent

Sir: The reason that Scots are likely to vote "yes" for devolution can be explained by the attitude of the English as exemplified in your cartoon (6 September) showing Balmoral situated in the realms of outer space.

As a Scot who now lives in England I have found that many southern English people are amazingly insular and ignorant of anywhere outside London and the

South-east. Most Scots have a broader outlook and many are probably hurt by the inference that the Queen is only truly in touch with the people when in London.

IAN M ARNOTT  
Peterborough, Cambridgeshire

Sir: We find ourselves both surprised and disappointed that the McMonster Raving Loony Party has put so little effort into campaigning for the "No. Yes" vote in Thursday's referendum on Scottish devolution.

JOHN SUMMERS  
DAVID SUMMERS  
Cambridge

### Challenges to celibacy rule

Sir: Bishop Lindsay's criticism (8 September) of Lynne Edwards' letter on the law of the clerical celibacy (3 September) is mostly incorrect. The law is in no way founded on scripture.

The two New Testament verses he quotes refer neither to the priesthood nor to a law. They suggest that celibacy is a gift to be valued when given. There is no reason to connect that gift with the priesthood and many of the greatest celibates in church history – Benedict, Francis of Assisi and, one may add, Mother Teresa – were not priests.

Secondly, it is quite untrue that the bishops at the Second Vatican Council "discussed the Church's present law" before reaffirming it. They were, on the contrary, explicitly forbidden by Pope Paul to do so (11

October 1965). This was because so many had written in to challenge it. What the council said on the subject in no way reflects a mature debate. Nevertheless it remains striking that, for the first time in a Roman document, the council favourably commented on the married clergy of the Eastern Church: "There are many excellent married priests."

Why what can be commanded east of the Mediterranean is to be prohibited west of it, no one has tried to explain.

However, in the Episcopal Synod of 1971, Pope Paul did allow the subject to be discussed owing to great pressure from bishops in many countries. A majority of the diocesan representatives at the Synod actually voted in favour of a change in the law. It was only the voice of the Pope's appointed representatives which prevented this from being approved.

The theological, pastoral and missionary reasons for a change are even more evident in 1997 than they were in 1971. It is more than time that this be recognised.

Professor ADRIAN HASTINGS  
Department of Theology and Religious Studies  
University of Leeds

### Just flowers

Sir: A plea to anyone leaving a floral tribute anywhere: please, please remove the wrapping. Apart from the fact that half-dead flowers in torn, soggy cellophane or paper look depressing, the tributes heaped outside the various palaces this past week would look really colourful, instead of a pile of grey/white, as seen on TV.

KARI OLAFSON  
Croydon, Surrey

### Our landscape as a work of art

Sir: The director of the National Art Collections Fund is rightly anxious that Lottery money should continue to be available to buy works of art ("Lottery cash for parks", 4 September).

However, he shows a disappointingly narrow view by suggesting that our parks, countryside and areas of finest landscape are not part of the heritage. The English landscape was largely created by the daily work of the common people who toiled in the woods and fields. It is enshrined in our culture through poetry, music and painting but is experienced most widely by those who live in it and visit it now.

Because it is a living entity, not a museum piece, it cannot be bought for the nation with a large capital sum of the kind which the Lottery distributes. The countryside needs constant care by people performing tasks such as hedgerow maintenance, ditch clearing and coppicing. Urban spaces and village greens also need reliable revenue funding if they are to continue to give refreshment and delight to the people. The Lottery rules should be changed so that it can finance the upkeep of our living inheritance.

Reform of the Common Agricultural Policy may change the emphasis of farming subsidies from production to "agri-environmental" schemes, but the money allocated to such schemes is peanuts compared with overall CAP spending, and we can no longer rely on the landscape to be an automatic by-product of food production as farms shed labour still further to cut costs in order to compete with world prices.

SARAH WARD  
Honiton, Devon

### More trains in the South

Sir: This winter, Connex South Central will be running more train services than we did last winter – 1633 compared with 1582, which is significantly more services than the 1450 we inherited from British Rail. It also considerably exceeds our contractual commitments.

These facts – ignored in your business comment of 9 September – mean we will continue to operate a turn-up-and-go service on the South London Metro, with many of its stations still receiving at least six trains an hour.

Since we launched the South London Metro in June last year, we have seen consistent month-on-month growth, with increased sales of cheap day return tickets, one-day travelcards and season tickets. I am puzzled by your statement, "If Connex South Central could not make a go of its new Metro service ..."

PARESH PATEL  
Service Group Manager, South London  
Connex South Central  
Croydon, Surrey

### Privacy promise

Sir: Congratulations on your commitment never to publish pictures of Princes William and Harry in private situations again. Why not extend this commitment to include all individuals who have not chosen to put themselves in public life?

RICHARD SIMMONS  
Brondesbury,  
Kent

## interview

Environment minister Angela Eagle talks to Suzanne Moore about her decision to come out as a lesbian, about changing attitudes, and the battle to do her job and still have a personal life

# 'I need to get things sorted'

**W**hen Angela Eagle, the MP for Wallasey and junior environment minister, shows me into her office, I cannot get over how tiny it is. "I know," she laughs. "When they told me that this was a ministerial office, I couldn't believe it. Apparently when they sack you, you get the good office. I hope I won't have that experience too soon." This seems bigly unlikely as everyone you talk to says Angela Eagle will go far. She is seen as highly talented and exceptionally hard-working by all her colleagues. She is also spoken of as a somewhat serious and private person. Few know that she is a passionate music and sports fan, happier in jeans backstage at an Elvis Costello concert rather than in the suits she first started wearing to make herself "look older". We begin, inevitably, talking about the extraordinary events of the past week.

Angela is the same age as Princess Diana was - 36 - and talks of how she cried her eyes out watching the funeral. "I thought of my own mother who died at 51 which is still young. I think a lot of people thought of their own losses and it was as if Diana's death had given us permission to cry. It is as if some big well of emotion got dammed somewhere and when it broke through the stiff upper-lip just crumpled." She claims she has never been

very good at hiding her emotions even though she has a serious side. "Yes, I am serious and that's not expected in a woman," but then she reveals, "I cried so much during Margaret Beckett's speech when John Smith died. Tory MPs came over to see if I was OK. I do get terribly sentimental. Mind you, I was in floods of tears over *ET* and when *Babe* was on I just had to leave the room."

She sees the grief Diana as "the emotional equivalent of the political landslide" and she thinks that the political landslide began with John Smith's death and the way that the values of the Labour Party struck a chord. "Tony caught that mood in his subsequent changes to the party." When I ask her whether it is right to look for political dimensions in predominantly cultural events she answers, "Well, the cultural is political. I think in the past too many people have looked down their noses at it. There is something very important about what Diana has come to represent. The female side of things has come to the fore." Angela is well placed to see how the culture of Westminster reflects this and how it has changed with the intake of new women MPs as she has been there since 1992. "When I first came here it was like walking into one of those clubs in Pall Mall. I was forever going into rooms marked Members Only

and finding that they were urinal. I was always being mistaken for a secretary. But a lot of these assumptions had already started to change. Having a female Speaker has made a huge difference. The changes have been gradual but now it feels like we are in a period where there is a rush on. Having a female Leader of the House is tremendously important and Ann Taylor is well keyed into how Parliament as an institution needs to change its workings. That means everything from the hours to how the day is organised. Like all the royal protocol that has caused so much trouble this week we have our own ridiculous protocol. For instance there is a rule that you have to wear a top bat to make a point of order during a vote. Traditionalists love it but it's stupid, it makes us look stupid and nobody understands it."

She describes the moment when Tony Blair first came into the house as Prime Minister. "Everyone clapped and you are not allowed to clap. The new MPs didn't know that and they just did it. So there was that one out of the way. At Question Time now I can see the women looking slightly embarrassed. That's a huge change from the shouting and leering that there used to be." Interestingly Angela doesn't go along with the view that Parliament needs to be more women-friendly, rather she

uses the expression "people-friendly".

"I care about politics deeply. To change the world or at least a little part of it you have to come in here to do your job. It's not that I'm whingeing - I love this job - but you have to give up so much of your life to even get into that position. Even as a backbencher you can easily work 24 hours a day. Yet everybody needs to have another life so that they can be more balanced and have some insight into the people they are representing."

She is very wary of becoming "institutionalised". "With your life as an MP it is very difficult to maintain relationships. Look at the high divorce rates here. There is a lot of pressure on your family. Just because you have signed up for this job

there is an assumption that your whole family has as well. When I was first elected I got some very moving letters from the children of former MPs saying that 'if you have a family, please do not do to them what mine did to me'. We need to be much more tolerant of MPs trying to maintain their family and personal lives."

**S**o how does she manage hers? "I have a long-term and very happy relationship but sometimes I don't know how we find the time to see each other. You have to think not only about your partner but their family and your own. In my case I happen to be with a woman and I think I've only been able to cope with that because I have a very under-

standing family. My sister [Maria Eagle is Angela's twin and also an MP], my brother and my father, all of whom are heterosexual, have always supported me. And that definitely has made that aspect of my life much easier to cope with."

Up until now Angela has not ventured this information about her sexuality to her constituents but says she would have told anyone who asked. "I think people should look at you for the values you represent and the way you do your job locally. I don't think my sexuality has a direct relevance to those things." Several members of the party know that she is gay and have been very supportive. "To be honest I didn't expect anything different. Attitudes have changed. The funny

thing is that all the straight men I've told haven't been in the least bit surprised. Most of the gay men were gobsmacked. I suspect that the straight men realise that you are not flirting with them; gay men, bless them, don't notice."

Her decision to come out now she says depended on two things, first, dealing with herself and then, second, feeling the need "to get a handle on this job and make sure that I can do it properly. Now I am at the stage where I need to get things sorted so I can just concentrate on my work".

As the only openly lesbian woman in the House and a minister to boot, she certainly doesn't want to be seen as simply a spokesperson for gay rights. "That's just one aspect

The question is: should politicians be human beings? And I say yes we should be. I'd rather be governed by human beings than cardboard cut-outs'

Photograph: Andrew Buurman

of what I'm about. I've always supported gay rights to the extent that I believe gay people should have the same civil rights, equal rights, partnership rights and the right to be free from irrational discrimination as everyone else. I've always voted that way whenever such issues arose. Then again, my sister feels the same way and she isn't gay."

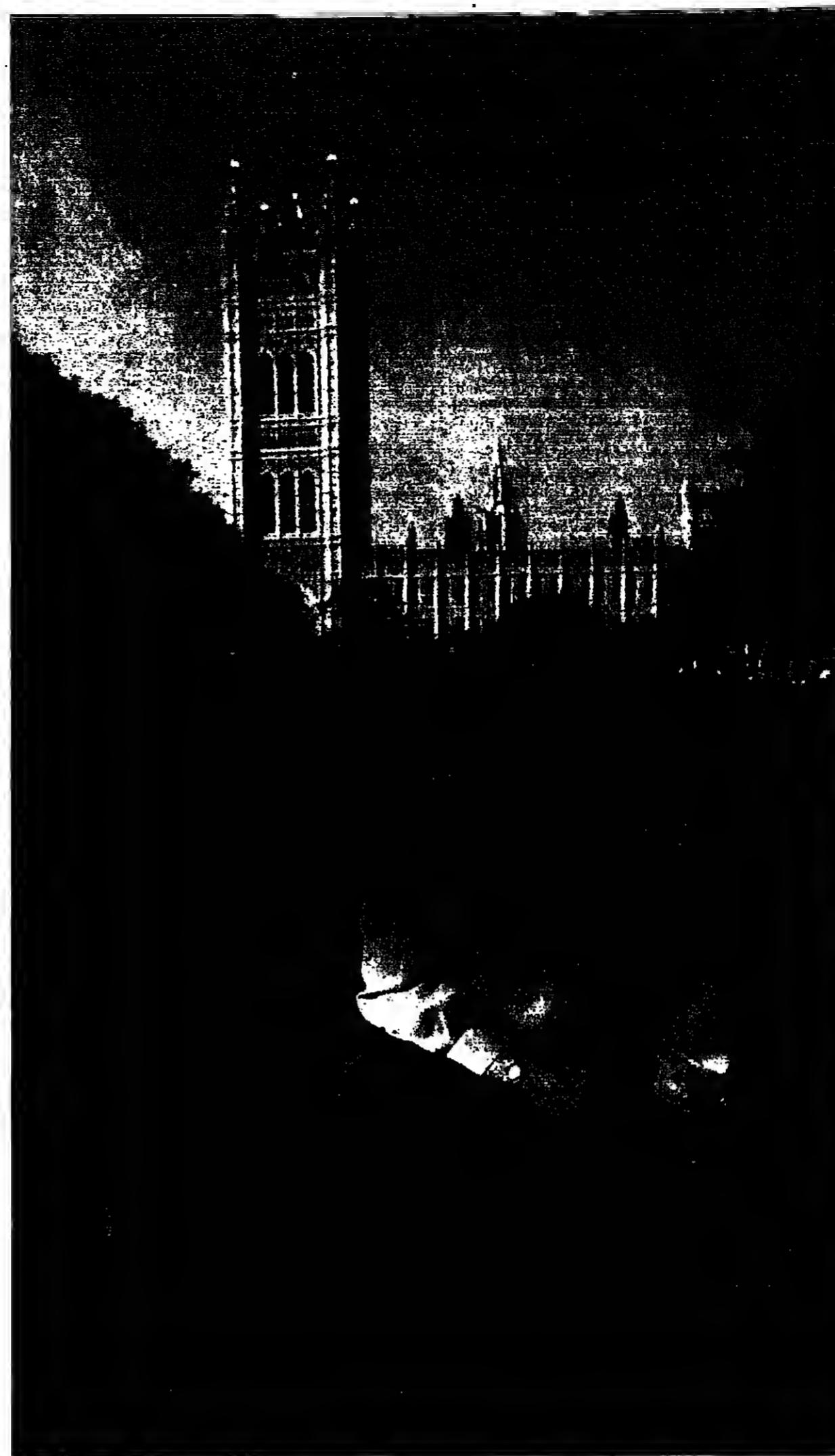
She is more than aware that many gay people have not received the kind of personal or political support she has. "It's obviously harder for gay people to be open. Some gay people cannot be out at work - it's not illegal to sack people for being gay. And it must be really hard to cope when your parents, the people who are meant to help you through life, have a major problem with you. I realise how lucky I have been."

So will we be seeing Angela and her partner at official occasions the way we see Chris Smith and his? She smiles. "My partner has never expressed any interest, any wish to come. She is actually very busy with her own life and I've always done pretty well without her there. I wonder how much of a strain this has been on her. Obviously at the beginning when I was elected it was personally quite difficult. I mean, we know people, long-standing Members of Parliament, who have never been truthful, but I think times have changed and the best option now is to just be open about it."

Has she been at all concerned that her sexuality would be in any way a bar to promotion within the party? "I get no sense of that at all. I think people are more sensible than we sometimes give them credit for." Let's hope that she is right because other MPs I'm sure will be watching the public reaction to this before they make their own decisions to be as honest as she is being.

"I think the most significant thing is for an MP to operate as a well-rounded person. Relationships are the most important things in our lives. So is doing a good job and so is our happiness. There has been this prudish, almost puritanical attitude to politicians in the past. But the question now is: should politicians be human beings? And I say yes we should be. I'd rather be governed by human beings than perfect cardboard cut-outs."

Who in their right minds could disagree with that or let outdated prejudices stand in the way of this extremely young, gifted and female politician.



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## Afore ye vote ... a wee Sassenach quiz



Miles Kington

through ... do you throw up or do you think, "Well, we need all the allies we can get"?

17. When England is playing Scotland, do you want the best side to win?

18. When England is playing Germany, who do you want to win?

19. Where is Belorussia?

20. What do you mean, it doesn't matter where it is as long as we stuff them?

21. Do you think it is tragic that even when Scotland has a good football side, they still lose to England when it really matters?

22. Do you think it is tragic that even when England has a good football team, they still lose to Germany when it really matters?

23. Do you think it is wonderful that even when Germany has a good team, they still lose to Brazil?

24. Do you think it is tragic that Scots always remember their defeats better than their victories?

25. Do you go around saying that Scotland has the best educational and legal system in the world, even though you don't believe it?

26. Are you proud to belong to a nation which is told it has the worst diet in the world?

27. Do you think a nation which can't even improve the world's diet in the world can make a go of democracy?

28. Can you name another Scottish drink besides Irn-Bru and whisky?

29. Do you feel ashamed that the best-known prize at the Edinburgh Festival is named after a French fizzy drink?

30. And has never been won by a Scottish performer?

31. Or did Arnold Brown win it one year?

32. And if he did, why doesn't he have a Scottish name?

33. Do you feel offended that the English think that Shakespeare's only Scottish play is desperately unlucky?

34. Do you ...

Ah! We've come to the head of the queue. Time to vote. The answer to the quiz, by the way, is that if you answered the first question ("Just how Scottish are you, really?") with a phrase meaning something like "Mind your own bloody English business," then you are.

someone say, "I blame the English," do you say, "For what?" or do you say, "Right enough - so do I!"?

2. Do you genuinely fear and mistrust the English?

3. Did you know that you, in turn, are feared and mistrusted by the Orcadians?

4. Do you feel insulted when you are abroad and people think you are English?

5. Do you feel insulted when you are abroad and people think you are Finsch?

6. Do you feel more insulted to be thought English or Finsch?

7. Do you have a funny Scottish accent?

8. Or do you have a normal way of speaking and your English friends a funny English accent?

9. Do you wear a kilt?

10. Do you possess a kilt but never wear it?

11. Would you rather be dead than caught wearing a kilt?

12. Would you only wear a kilt on the strict understanding that nobody else Scottish was present?

13. Like, at an English wedding in the far end of Cornwall, where you could be the token Scot in the kilt that always seems to

turn up at these events?

14. Do you go all funny when you hear the sound of the pipes?

15. When you see a man in the street playing the pipes and wearing, not tartan, but jeans and a sweater, what is your reaction? a) He is not properly dressed; b) What does it matter how he is dressed as long as he plays well? c) What a bloody racket!

16. When you hear a man with a name like Lord Fraser of Dundreary on the radio saying, in a Knightsbridge accent: "Well, look here, I am a Scot through and

"There's a man in the kitchen about your car," said the children as I was watering the sunflowers and, slightly alarmed, I went to see. He was from the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, an enormous but genial fellow with a clipboard, who had, it seemed, simply wandered into the house and now stood loomingly over the chocolate fingers and jejuine watercolours, calmly untinting the two-year-old's police tricycle and the boy's squeaky truck with instinctive professional interest. He looked entirely at home. Had I arrived a moment later, he'd have started whistling. "It's about your car, sir," he said breezily. "It was seen with an out-of-date tax disc. There'll either be a fine or else a court case, and I just wondered if you had anything to say..."

I looked at him. What the hell...? "It may be that the car has been off the road for some time," he continued equably, like Hercule Poirot ticking off possible motives in the blood-stained library, "or that it's been subjected to mechanical work. But I have to make a report on the reason, and then wait for a judgement to be made. It'll either be a fine or a..." Finally I found my tongue. "Are you telling me that, because my tax disc was a month out of date last April, I'm being investigated like a billion smuggler?" I demanded. "Oh no," he said. "They already know you're guilty. They just have to work out the level of penalty. And if it goes to the courts..."

I wondered if this pleasant, inoffensive man could be a former Stasi officer who'd retrained for the DVLA. I wondered even more as he smilingly outlined the penalties for failing to keep your tax disc up to date. "Now if it's on an unattended car, we try to contact the owner and, if the disc isn't brought up to date, we clamp the vehicle - but frankly, ha-ha, we've only got one clamp for north London and another for the south." He chortled like a vicar. "Then the owner has 24 hours to pay the £100 fine before we take it to a car pound." Then what do you do? I asked sarcastically. Beat it senseless with a stick? Spray it pink? Abuse it verbally ("You pathetic little Renault. You ignorant frog rattertrap. You spineless 1.6-litre nonentity...")? Or do you just stick it in one of those junk yards you see in the movies and squash it to a cube of twisted metal? "Only as a last resort, sir," said the man calmly, "and after we've given the owner several other warnings..."

My God, he meant it. That's what happens to you now in new-age Britain is it? Bad discs used to be a bit of a joke battlefield between motorist and policeman. You overran the time limit without noticing, you didn't have the £100 renewal fee to spare, whatever the reason, you got flagged down by a smiling No-actually-I-haven't-got-better-things-to-do lady cop who'd rap her finger nail on your windscreen and say, "Being a bit forgetful aren't we, sir?" One would reply with awkward flirtation ("Your eyes must be very sharp, officer, as well as being a rather attractive shade of blue...") and both sides would part happily. Now they hijack your wheels, immobilise them, kidnap them and crush them to death, all because of a little piece of paper. And the DVLA, which was once just the place you wrote off to for those little plastic folders to keep your driving licence in? Now, they're like some federal agency with a hit squad on permanent standby to come round and berate you in your own kitchen.

I don't like the way the world is going. Next thing you know, there'll be a bloke from the BBC on the doormat with a



**john walsh**

I wondered if this pleasant, inoffensive man could be a former Stasi officer who'd retrained for the DVLA

sledgehammer, saying, "Morning, sir. Failure to renew colour television licence. If you could show me the offending set..."

Charly Diana Ironies mount. Up, it seems, daily. At least three people have pointed out something I failed to notice during the funeral - that to have a large black car, with the Princess inside, speeding along a motorway immediately followed by three motorbikes, line abreast in apparent hot pursuit, is a grossly insensitive simulacrum of the dead woman's last few minutes alive. And as you contemplate the Last Night of the Proms on Saturday (and what a maudlin spectacle that promises to be), does it not seem a little inappropriate to kick off the proceedings with a four-minute minimalist composition called "Short Ride in a Fast Machine"?

How pleasing to see that the two big publishing stories of the summer have reached a happy conclusion at the start of the autumn, by dovetailing into one. The most contentious bit of personnel-adjustment in a long time was the sacking of Jon Riley as head of Picador, the imprint which used to be solely concerned with paperbacks other people's successes but has mutated into a dashing and original publisher of the classic writers around. Riley had been deputy publishing director since 1993, succeeding his boss Peter Straus to the publisher's chair on the latter's departure to America last year.

Why was he sacked? Ian Chapman, the beaming and rubicund head of Macmillan (which owns Picador) wouldn't say, beyond remarking that it was nothing to do with the company's performance. So what was it? Hints surfaced about personality clashes. Riley's famously short fuse (he is extremely good company, but has a streak of irritability a mile wide), rumours of "excessive behaviour", whatever that may be, and a single quotation attributed to Riley himself:

"They didn't approve of the way I enjoyed myself." What could this possibly mean? Angel Dust? Frottage? Absinthe? Bog-snorkelling?

Extraordinary scenes of bitter dispute and tearful loyalty broke out in the wake of Riley's departure. Julian Barnes led a delegation of top Picador writers (Jonathan Coe, John Lanchester, Andrew O'Hagan) round to the luckless Chapman's office to protest against the removal of a man who had championed their work published them with panache. The subsequent imbroglio saw Chapman's name and person widely mentioned in the press. Whatever or

Riley's next move will be to go back to his old job (picking his toes? humming "Lalibulero?"), he still objected to Pat Kavanagh, Barnes's wife and a leading agent, said her opinion of Riley's sackers was "unprintable". In *The Bookseller*, organ of the book trade,

Peter Straus gave his former deputy a ringing endorsement, before concluding, "I am sure his editorial talents will soon find a suitable position."

They didn't take long. He's now got the chief editor job at Faber alongside Walter Donohue, Faber's charismatic, Brooklyn-born film books editor, who has become the noble imprint's new publisher. Riley's held to be such a key position in the world of literary taste that the future incumbent has been a matter of imperious speculation for months. Even I, readers will be astonished to hear, got it slightly wrong when I said the job had gone to Bill Buford, grizzled literary editor of the *New Yorker*. Things were proceeding smoothly, I understand, until Buford made a small tactical error. He sent his agent to negotiate his fee with the Faber board. One just doesn't do that sort of thing at TS Eliot's old firm...

It is, of course, asking for trouble to write this in any newspaper. We all transgress sometimes. We all get the tone and balance wrong on occasion. The *Independent* (and *The Guardian* and *The Telegraph*) has relatively clean hands on privacy, royal snooping and Code infringements. But newspapers have been on a very long bingie in the last-chance saloon, a non-stop happy hour where the barman has handsomely hacked the local police.

Nearly 10 years ago the Calcutta committee drew up privacy legislation, but since then the press barons' power over our politicians has been made frighteningly manifest. The Tories really meant to legislate, but in the end they dared not. (Major marked his downfall from the day Murdoch turned against him.) Tony Blair's pact was sealed long ago on his infamous visit to Murdoch, and this week that pact held fast. Robin Cook was silenced when he seemed to call for legislation. Downing Street briefens rushed to say that self-regulation not legisla-

tion was the policy.

Can we really have reached the point where no British government can now be elected or survive without the permission of Murdoch, owner of 40 per cent of newspaper readership? Both our leading parties behave as if they think so. Blair is unlikely to dare to test the hypothesis by curbing either the content or the ownership of the press. Downing Street said, more in hope than expectation, "The newspaper industry will be taking a good look at what lessons they might learn." Now just what lesson is a newspaper industry in the throes of a mortal combat circulation war capable of teaching itself?

Lord Wakeham is a great man for shooting at paper tigers while the real meat-eaters go roaring past his averted gaze. So we shall get tougher agreements on photographing the princes, led by this paper's initiative. We shall get more rules about the paparazzi, unconvincedly touted by Lord Rothermere of the *Daily Mail* (with the odd caveat that they



### The most nauseating apology for our grotesque press is blaming readers' taste

can be used with his personal permission). No doubt Lord Wakeham will declare himself most satisfied while all around him his Code of Practice will continue to be broken, every day, in every way, in word or spirit.

It is mainly a good code, full of truths we should hold to be self-evident. It is a code universally acknowledged by all editors and by all political parties. If it was strictly adhered to, it would change the nature of our press out of recognition, for the better. So why can't it be made law? Why can't we frame legislation banning all intrusion into people's sex lives, while allowing investigation of financial matters?

A scurry of press apologists

have sprung into print, especially in *The Times*, explaining why it can't be done - impossible, too complex, dangerous to the freedom of the press, etc. They point to France, where stars make millions out of suing magazines for breaches of their privacy as part of their income, while the magazines simply budget for it and carry on undeterred. (Easy - set the punishment so it really hurts and let the state take most of the fines.)

They say there are too many "public interest" grey areas. In fact there are relatively few. Private sex (but not financial) lives would be out of bounds for all, including politicians. Sex is nobody else's business unless someone has built their career on vociferous, militant anti-sex moralising. (I can think of very few that applies to, except just possibly, Lord Rothermere.)

Next they say legislation would kill off investigative journalism. (This often from editors who commission virtually none, except into sex stories.) But a sensible privacy law would not bar investigation of suspected illegal activity, of fraud or other crimes. It would, however, require the *quid pro quo* of a Freedom of Information Act.

Gossip is the stuff of life. We all love it, live it, sniff it, roll in it, eat and drink it every day of our lives. But the most nauseating apology for our grotesque press has been editors blaming their readers' taste for the stuff: "It's what the readers want. They don't have to buy it if they don't like it."

Law is about protecting us from ourselves. What if we could all choose voluntarily, which side of the road to drive on? We don't trust ourselves to regulate our greed for goods, choosing whether or not we wish to pay in shops. We make laws about these things. Once prudent gossip is out there for sale, we may find it irresistible. Yet at the same time we may still think the press sinks and that we are all demeaned and degraded by it. This is not hypocrisy, it is human. And as humans, we band together and make laws to curb those natural appetites in order to make society bearable to live in. A privacy law is no different. It simply sets limits to our greed for gossip, for our own sakes.

It takes strong political leadership to make good laws, but if our leaders have all been intimidated, threatened and scared senseless by the foghorn front pages of the tabloids, then nothing will be done. Perhaps the hoy hague could gain his manhood spurs and show some bravery on this? After all, he has little enough to lose and much public support in gain.

## Farewell to a right royal president

As Ireland's Mary Robinson leaves office, Alan Murdoch reflects on the virtues of electing a head of state

Tomorrow, on her last full day in office, a United Nations-bound Mary Robinson will bid farewell to her staff knowing she has transformed the once-moribund office of Irish President into a potent instrument at home and abroad. At a moment when Britain is having second thoughts about the wisdom of continuing with a hereditary monarchy, her example lays bare many of the standard objections to elected heads of state.

Hamstringing by restrictive protocol, there had, until her arrival, seemed little purpose in the role of Ireland's head of state. The 1937 Constitution, framed by then-Taoiseach and future president Eamon de Valera, left the role largely focused on overseeing legislation by law and focused in and out ministerial seals of office.

Thus defined, the job left plenty of time for golf, dining out, and the comforting Victorian warmth of "Bongo" Ryan's pub in Parkgate Street near the presidential home in Phoenix Park. One past incumbent so enjoyed the privacy ensured by the bolted doors on its "snugs" that barmen there named a special sandwich after him.

By the Seventies the office was peripheral. In those days an elderly man in a suit would put his head round the door of "The Plough" pub opposite the Abbey Theatre after performances to signal a seated customer with a dinner's hat beside him reading the evening paper to follow him out. Seeing this ritual intermittently, a bemused regular asked who it was, to be told, unimpressively, "Oh him, that's yer man the President. Anyway, as I was saying..."

All that changed when, in 1990, the former human rights lawyer, and heritage, contraception and divorce reform campaigner Mary Robinson, hair newly tied into a coiffured perm, took the helm. At first reluctant to run, she was urged on by the Labour leader Dick Spring, who believed there was a role for a President in shaking up an antiquated straitjacket of politics dominated by the two main parties, Fianna Fail and Fine Gael.

legacies of the Irish Civil War schism over the treaty that delivered partition of Northern Ireland from the emerging Irish Free State.

It was clear from the earliest days of her energetic canvass, one of the first to cover every corner of the state, that Mrs Robinson had become convinced a different, more vital presidency was possible. Promoting herself as "A President with a Purpose", she spoke persuasively of opening up Aras an Uachtarain (the presidential residence) to the people, of reaching out to the marginalised, the homeless, handicapped, travellers (gypsies) or emigrants across the globe, and extending a hand of friendship to Unionists, in particular women, from a state previously perceived as threatening.

From cross-community détente in visits to women's centres in Belfast's Shankill Road to Somali feeding stations to feed overcrowded dungeons in Rwanda, she also helped engineer a new outward-looking foreign policy for a neutral country with an established tradition in peace-keeping and third-world relief.

The contrast with staid, stuffy predecessors

and their Edwardian top-hats could hardly have marked a clearer breach with the way things used to be. It may seem superficial, but her attention to appearance, with colourful yet dignified Irish designer clothes, gave a new brightness to the position that was uplifting, especially for Mna na hÉireann, the women of Ireland. They found themselves with a stylish example in how decades of women's striking absence from Irish executive

recently, opinion polls say, become thinkable. A living, ruling royal family, it was long held, was vital to London's economy, repaying many times the cost of the Civil List. Royal mystique magnetises camera-clicking throngs of American and Japanese tourists, intrigued by a social order synonymous with Beefeathers and corgis. But it is a royal theme park, whatever the financial spin-offs from the Changing of the Guard and the theatrical spectacle of coronets and horse-drawn gilded carriages, really the

ideal fulcrum for a modern European state?

Ardent supporters of the monarchy have long proclaimed it as a democratic safeguard (though conveniently amnesiac on the Mad King George problem) implying that it was respected precisely because of the awe inspired by its emme-clad grandeur. But the conviction that Britain needs its royals, because the alternative would be some drab time-server in a grey suit elevated on the strength of decades of loyalty voting the party line at Westminster, looks shaky against a Mary Robinson-type figure. Her warm style contrasts with the *noblesse oblige* overtones of English royalty, allowing an easier humorous dialogue with, for example, young single mothers in bleak inner-city Dublin community groups than any Windsor could manage.

After she signs off the job at 1pm tomorrow, Mrs Robinson's functions under constitutional provision will be carried out until her successor takes office in early November by a presidential commission of three officials, the Ceann Comhairle (Speaker) of the Dail, his counterpart, the Cathaoirleach of the Senate, and the President of the High Court, advised by a Council of State. That troika can oversee the operation of law, government and international relations without a murmur of public alarm begs the question do we really need a head of state at all?

The answer was delivered powerfully by the departing head of state herself. Mrs Robinson, essentially a shy woman, acquired great authority from the fact that she was directly elected. In a 1990 campaign interview she said, in a much-quoted tenet, that "I'll be able to look Charlie Haughey (then Taoiseach) in the eye and tell him to back off because I've been directly elected, and he hasn't." With Haughey today in political disgrace, and the Dail yesterday moving to put his finances and murkier executive decisions under new scrutiny, her argument in the seven years since that statement has become irrefutable.

Rembrandt has won the maximum 5-star rating in a test for the best whitening toothpaste carried out by *Now* magazine, the smarter woman's weekly.

*Now* Magazine has this to say about Rembrandt, which came out top of five brands tested -

Used over six weeks it did make teeth whiter - without feeling abrasive - which isn't bad considering it had to cope with coffee, tea, red wine and smoking. Guaranteed to bring a sparkle to your smile.

- *Now* magazine 31 July, 1997

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## German spurt boosts single currency hopes

**Inre Karacs**  
Bonn  
**Katherine Butler**  
Brussels

Germany has moved within sight of the fiscal targets laid down by the Maastricht Treaty, increasing pressure on other would-be members of European monetary union to rein in public spending.

With better than expected figures on German government finances yesterday providing a tonic for Europe's single currency, the European Commission President, Jacques Santer, said plans for a single currency were beyond the point of no return and critics should

end their "disease of doubt". The Nobel prize-winning economist Milton Friedman became the latest to add his voice to the chorus of EMU-doubters yesterday, warning in a German newspaper that Europe, with its diverse languages, traditions, industries and labour markets would not be ready for currency union on 1 January 1999.

But in a strongly worded statement Mr Santer labelled such comment "irresponsible" and insisted delay was not only unnecessary but legally impossible. Calling for an end to speculation, Mr Santer said he was convinced a "substantial" number of countries would meet the qualifying targets on time.

Thanks to a recovery in economic activity in recent months, Germany's prospects of meeting the required targets look brighter than they have for some time.

The government's budget deficit fell to 3.1 per cent of GDP in the first half of this year. With growth accelerating and tax revenues increasing, analysts now believe Germany is on course to hit the target figure of 3.0 per cent for the whole of 1997.

Two sets of official figures published yesterday underpin renewed hopes that Germany will fulfil all but one of the Maastricht criteria without undue fudging. To the surprise of all observers, including government

officials, the Federal Statistics Office reported that last year's government budget deficit had been 3.5 per cent - 0.3 percentage points lower than previous estimates. In the first half of this year, despite the sluggish economy and mass lay-offs, the deficit shrank to 3.1 per cent.

Some of the improvement was due to the adoption of EU accounting standards, which exclude investment in hospitals from government expenditure. Even so, the figures show that the deficit in the first half of 1997 was 0.3 points lower than the corresponding period last year.

As the economy picks up, analysts said there was every chance that the government

would deliver the 3 per cent figure in time for the final weight-in for monetary union. Evidence that the German economy had turned the corner also came from the growth figures issued yesterday by the Statistics Office.

According to these, GDP in the second quarter was 2.9 per cent higher than the corresponding period in 1996. Separate figures from the Bundesbank, adjusted differently, showed pan-German GDP growth of 2.6 per cent in the year to the second quarter.

Together these suggest that Germany is heading for annual growth of 2.5 per cent in line with government targets.

However, the recovery is

being driven almost entirely by exports, boosted by the low exchange rate of the mark. Investment in equipment grew only by 0.3 per cent in the second quarter and consumer spending remained in the dumps. With unemployment still on the rise, there appears little prospect of the long-awaited pick-up in domestic demand.

Nevertheless, meeting the most important Maastricht criteria - although total public debt is still set to climb over the 60 per cent threshold - will save the government a great deal of embarrassment.

Chancellor Helmut Kohl, looking upbeat for the first time

in months, said: "We want a stable currency and the euro at the right time, and we have a good chance of achieving that." He told a rowdy session of the Bundestag yesterday: "There is no alternative."

The implication is that Bonn will now feel able to resume its favourite role as Europe's disciplinarian. It will turn a blind eye to France's performance, close enough to 3 per cent. But Italy's hopes of sneaking in behind a limping Germany have been dimmed.

Nevertheless, Mr Santer insisted that the single currency would go ahead on time. "The end is in sight. This is not the time to frighten off the public

about the solidity of the single currency," he said. Commission lawyers had advised that postponement would in any case be "legally untenable".

Mr Santer admitted that urgent steps had to be taken to tackle Europe's unemployment crisis. He called on EU governments to reduce taxes on employment and raised the prospect instead of new taxes on energy.

It was "crazy" he said that only one in ten of the unemployed were on training schemes and that unemployment benefit was paid out to millions without any corresponding incentive to retrain or upgrade skills. Mr Santer also said he favoured a reduction in working hours.

## Clarke joins UniChem as chairman

**Sameena Ahmad**

Kenneth Clarke, the former Chancellor of the Exchequer and possibly one of the most unhealthy people in the House of Commons, is joining the board of UniChem, the UK healthcare company, as non-executive chairman. Mr Clarke, who famously prefers a visit to the pub to preparing speeches and smokes out his House of Commons colleagues with his panettini cigars, will earn £120,000 for a maximum two days a week.

Having lost to William Hague in the Tory party leadership contest, Mr Clarke can at least console himself that he is now earning the bigger salary. As a full-time leader of the opposition, Mr Hague makes £96,000.

Despite his lifestyle and reputation for toughness, Mr Clarke looks well-suited to a role at UniChem, the pharmaceutical retailer and wholesaler. "He adores roughing people up ... crippled nurses would be right up his street," said former cabinet colleague.

He cut his teeth as minister in the Department for Health and Social Security from 1982 to 1985. As Secretary of State for Health between 1988 and 1990, he was a key architect of the controversial internal reforms of the National Health Service. After losing the Tory leadership election in May, Mr Clarke was eager to try his hand at business, saying that after telling companies how to run, he wanted to have a go himself. Though he was appointed a non-executive director of Foreign & Colonial Investment Management, he clearly was seeking a more hands-on role. As a Tory MP for

Rushcliffe near Nottingham and a fan of local football, Mr Clarke was also widely tipped to become the next chairman of Nottingham Forest football club. However, Mr Clarke's long time relationship with UniChem won out.

He was great pals with the group's former chairman, Lord Rippon, who died in January. Mr Clarke approached UniChem immediately after the leadership election.

Jeffery Harris, chief executive of UniChem, which runs the Moss Chemist chain of pharmacies, said Mr Clarke's appointment was ideally suited to the group's plans to expand in drug wholesaling Europe: "He has a vast knowledge of the health industry. He has a huge number of personal contacts in Europe."

"He has met up with health ministers in Europe. He's an extremely wise and sensible man and we will value his advice on deals."

Having failed substantially to beef up its retail pharmacy side after losing a £60m bid battle with Germany's Gehe to take over Lloyds Chemists, Mr Harris said UniChem was now keen to expand its wholesale business in continental Europe. With the group's share price weak after the failed bid, he said UniChem was likely to merge with rather than buy a large wholesaler. Although Gehe is a big wholesaler, he said any friendly deal there was "unlikely".

Wholesaling sales in the six months to June took a £20m hit after Glaxo Wellcome's ulcer drug Zantac went off patent. Sales in the period rose 16 per cent to £833m with profits ahead 8 per cent to £27m.



Ken Clarke: On an annual salary of £120,000, he will earn more than William Hague

## Care First investors want chief reinstated

**Sameena Ahmad**

Institutional investors in Care First, the UK's largest nursing home group, are lobbying for the reinstatement of Chai Patel, who quit as chief executive a fortnight ago after a bust-up with the group's chairman. It is understood that Mr Patel would consider rejoining the company only if Keith Bradshaw, executive chairman, and Ron Reid, finance director, resign.

Institutions believed to be concerned about Mr Patel's departure include Morgan Stanley, Fidelity, London & Manchester, Abbey Life, National Provident and Invesco, which collectively represent

around 18 per cent of Care First's shares.

Mr Patel, whose Court Cavendish healthcare group merged with Mr Bradshaw's Takare last October, is believed to have walked out because of interference from Mr Bradshaw over strategic decisions. A source close to Mr Patel said:

"They just didn't share the same vision and values. Mr Patel had no freedom to act. The amount of cross-checking of his decisions was stifling." Mr Bradshaw apparently refused to specify to Mr Patel when he would step down to a non-executive role. Mr Patel wants Mr Bradshaw and Mr Reid, both originally from Takare,

to go completely before being considered returning.

Many of the institutions who are having meetings with Care First over the next few days regard Mr Patel very highly. One leading fund manager said yesterday: "Very much want to see the reinstatement of Chai Patel. We bought the shares because we believed in his style of management." The fund manager called on other institutions to make their views plain: "It is now time for the majority owners to have their view."

Takare has been one of the worst performers in a tough sector. Shares in the company have lagged the market by 74 per cent in the last five years.

## Train maker to tackle Teutonic inefficiency

**Michael Harrison**

The world's biggest train manufacturer has dispatched a "hit squad" from Britain to sort out its German operations with a brief to bring them up to UK standards of efficiency and cost competitiveness.

The move by Adtranz, the ABC-Daimler-Benz joint venture which owns the old British Rail Engineering works in Derby, is part of an overall strategy to cut the size of the European workforce by about 5,000.

Since Adtranz was formed in 1996, it has cut its UK workforce from 8,000 to 3,500 and closed its York manufacturing works, making Britain the group's most efficient production base. Its UK operations, based mainly in Derby, Manchester, Doncaster and Ply-

mouth, are now 50 per cent cheaper than those in Germany, where 8,500 are employed in 11 locations, while UK inventory levels are a sixth of those elsewhere.

Klaus Vagner, chief executive of Adtranz, said: "We have flown our British restructuring team into Germany to do the same thing there that they have done here."

The British team will assess the scope for rationalising the number of plants in Germany and introduce UK-style working systems. This involves project directors with responsibility for the design, development and manufacture of a train rather than the production system being broken up by function.

The process is likely to be repeated in some of the group's

Scandinavian operations, notably Denmark, which is also reckoned to suffer from over-manning and excess capacity compared to the size of the home market.

Since the UK restructuring, Adtranz has won the lion's share of the rolling stock orders placed by the privatised rail operators and has also become the favourite location for building trains for export.

The total UK order book stands at £500m, of which about a quarter are export contracts including one deal to supply rolling stock for a new light rail system in Bangkok.

Worldwide, Adtranz has manufacturing operations in 20 countries, a £6bn order backlog and 25,000 employees, of which about 20,000 are in Europe, making it the world's

biggest train manufacturer with a 14 per cent share of the global market and 32 per cent of the European market.

Mr Vagner forecast further consolidation and rationalisa-

## Boots pays £175m for German skincare firm

Boots yesterday fulfilled a long-standing ambition to break into the German healthcare market when Boots Healthcare International paid £175m for Merck's medical skincare company, Hermann Kurt Herman, writes Nigel Cope.

The deal gives Boots a presence in the £1.6bn German skincare market and follows its move to France last year, when it acquired the French skincare group Lutisia for £115m.

David Thompson, finance director of Boots, said: "This is a significant acquisition for Boots, fulfilling a long-estab-

lished strategic objective to achieve a presence for BHI in Germany. It underlines our confidence in the prospects of the division and our commitment to the long-term growth of the business." He said the deal was initially expected to be earnings-neutral.

Boots said the deal would open up the German market for BHI, its over-the-counter healthcare business whose products include Neurofen, Strepsils and the skin cream E45. Boots said it would consider other acquisitions for the business.

STOCK MARKETS									
FTSE 100		Dow Jones*		Nikkei					
Index	Close	Day's change	Change (%)	1996/97 High	1996/97 Low	Year Ago			
FTSE 100	4905.20	-45.30	-0.9	5086.80	4056.60	3.36			
FTSE 250	4864.70	-12.30	-0.3	4729.40	4386.20	3.55			
FTSE 350	2368.10	-18.80	-0.8	2438.00	2017.90	3.39			
FTSE SmallCap	2281.17	+1.82	+0.1	2374.20	2178.29	3.17			
FTSE All-Share	2516.01	-17.10	-0.7	2376.39	1989.78	3.38			
New York*	7782.44	-59.47	-0.8	8259.31	5024.94	1.67			
Tokyo	18704.77	+6.80	+0.1	20681.07	17303.85	0.84			
Hong Kong	14805.44	-191.22	-1.3	16673.27	12055.17	2.97			
Frankfurt	4050.14	-44.25	-1.1	4458.93	2848.77	1.36			

Source: FT Information

INTEREST RATES									
Short sterling*		UK medium gilt*		US long bond					
Index	1 Month	1 Year	Medium Bond (%)	2 Year Ago	Long Bond (%)	10 Year Ago			
UK	7.08	7.50	6.96	7.88	6.91	8.01			
US	5.59	8.00	6.36	6.93	6.65	7.12			
Japan	0.40	0.50	2.						



# No instant gratification, but the Williams outlook is good

**W**illiams, once known as a conglomerate, has worked hard to reinvent itself as the wind of stock market fashion has turned against its old sector. This group has dropped motor dealing, engineering, electronics and a large chunk of its building products business, turning very healthy profits for shareholders.

Meanwhile, April's £1.3bn acquisition of Chubb has given tangible backing to the claims by Williams' chairman, Sir Nigel Rudd, that he is now determined to focus on security and fire protection. Earlier this month, these efforts resulted in Williams finally being reclassified as a support services company. And the transformation was crowned yesterday by the announcement that its membership of the FTSE 100 index has been restored.

Despite this tour de force, the recent run in the shares has been driven more by hopes that the group would accompany its interim announcement yesterday with news of further disposals and a share buy-back. The lack of instant gratification on either score sent the shares down 15.5p to 359p, even though it is clear that moves are afoot.

Authority for a share buy-back will be put to shareholders later this year, while a sale of the Polyfilla to US decorative paints home improvements division was not being ruled either in or out by Sir Nigel yesterday. Analysts are suggesting

that Nutone, a US electrical goods installer, could go whatever happens, although forecasts that the whole division could eventually fetch as much as £900m may prove optimistic.

Corporate moves aside, the Chubb integration appears to be, if anything, running ahead of expectations. Cost savings, which have seen 300 jobs go so far, and the benefits of moving more of Chubb's products through Williams' existing Yale and Kiddie distribution networks are on course to hit the target of adding £40m to profits by the end of next year.

Longer term, there should be more to go for, with Chubb's strong positions in the fast growing security and fire protection markets of the Far East and Australia complementing Yale and Kiddie in the Americas and Europe. Williams has yet to prove it can capitalise on these possibilities though.

Stripping out acquisitions and exchange effects, underlying profits growth of 5 per cent in fire protection and 6 per cent in security was eclipsed by the supposedly non-core home improvement operation, which recorded a sparkling 13 per cent advance.

The market outlook is good, but the group's warning that the removal of advance corporation tax credits will cost an extra £9m a year in extra pension fund contributions caused full-year forecasts to

be shaved a little yesterday. Still, assuming profits of £280m, the shares, on a forward multiple of 16, falling to 14, look reasonable value, particularly against rivals in Sweden and the US on p/e ratios in the 30s.

## ABP has plans but few details

**A**sociated British Ports, captained by long-standing chairman Sir Keith Stuart, has sailed into troubled waters in recent months. Investors have become increasingly fed up with disappointing profits growth and poor returns from new investments. After

## THE INVESTMENT COLUMN

EDITED BY MAGNUS GRIMOND

all, ABP owns most of the UK's biggest and most prosperous trade gateways to the sea and should be cashing in as the economy booms. But yesterday's 5 per cent rise in port operating profits to £101m for the six months to June.

The group took the opportunity to unveil plans for a strategic review in an attempt to stave off a shareholder revolt. However ABP's announcement was long on rhetoric and short on details. The group hinted it would look for overseas ac-

quisitions or joint ventures or possibly extend its port activities and start handling distribution operations on behalf of their clients. But nothing is definite and any new plans will not be known until next March at the earliest.

What we do know is that ABP will get out of non-port property developments. It claims that it has been doing so for years. Strange then that its balance sheet shows a recent rise in the amount of port-located properties it holds.

Whatever the result of the strategic review, ABP appears to have ruled out the one measure that

would be a sure-fire way to pep up the share price, namely a share buy-back or special dividend. The 17.5p share price fall to 27.5p reflects investors' disappointment.

That said, shareholders should stick in there. Sir Keith Stuart has recently appointed an outsider, Andrew Smith, to head up the ports division, which should provide an added impetus for change. Meanwhile profits should continue to rise steadily. UBS, the broker, is forecasting full-year profits of £102m, putting the shares on a prospective p/e ratio of 14, where they are supported by a forecast yield of 4.1 per cent. Hold.

## Fast progress by Courtaulds

**B**ritain's battered textile industry may be finally off the critical list if the latest set of results are any guide. On Monday Dewhurst, a dedicated supplier to Marks & Spencer, reported a healthy rise in profits from clothing sales. Yesterday it was the turn of Courtaulds Textiles, the leading supplier of lingerie to M&S.

Since last June's replacement of chief executive Noel Jervis with Colin Dyer, the group has made fast progress in harsh markets. As well as weak demand and falling textile

margins across the industry, Courtaulds' own headaches have been its lace and stretch fabric division, a third of total sales, and Wells, a French hosiery business.

Happily the group's restructuring plan, which should save some £10m a year by the end of 1998, is paying off. There was a £31.7m provision in the 1996 figures for closing eight businesses, including UK lace production, cutting 350 jobs and shifting production overseas. The impact is clear in yesterday's interim numbers. On sales to June down a touch at £421m, profits recovered to £10.4m from a loss including restructuring costs of £8.5m last time. Half-year margins more than doubled to 3.2 per cent. With demand for lace weak, Courtaulds is scaling back its US business and focusing on the stronger French and Spanish markets.

Meanwhile stretch fairies, used for everything from underwear to car seat covers, is going great guns. Business with M&S, around 35 per cent of the total, is sprightly and set to grow, while lingerie and hosiery is benefiting from more overseas sourcing and a more global focus.

A combination of improving demand and further restructuring benefits should ensure continuing improvement. BZW forecasts £37.3m for the full year, including £3m of further exceptional. That puts the shares, up 4p at 335p, on a forward p/e ratio of 14, which looks about right against the sector. Hold.

## New Savings Rates from Bristol & West.

EFFECTIVE 11TH SEPTEMBER 1997 (unless otherwise stated).

\*Effective 19TH SEPTEMBER 1997.

ACCOUNT	AMOUNT INVESTED	GROSS RATE OF INTEREST PA** (VARIABLE)	NET PA**	ACCOUNT	AMOUNT INVESTED	GROSS RATE OF INTEREST PA** (VARIABLE)	NET PA**
INSTANT ACCESS	£100,000+	4.40%	3.52%	120 DAY NOTICE ACCOUNT	£100,000+	6.45%	5.16%
	£50,000+	4.40%	3.52%	Interest paid annually. (No longer available)	£50,000+	6.20%	4.96%
	£25,000+	4.20%	3.36%		£25,000+	6.10%	4.88%
	£10,000+	3.90%	3.12%		£10,000+	6.00%	4.80%
	£5,000+	3.50%	2.80%		£5,000+	5.85%	4.68%
	£1,000+	3.10%	2.45%		£2,500+	4.50%	3.60%
	£500+	2.75%	2.20%		£1,000+	4.45%	3.56%
	£1+	2.55%	2.04%				
	£1+	0.20%	0.16%	120 DAY NOTICE ACCOUNT	£100,000+	6.27%	5.01%
MONTHLY SAVER	£5,000+	3.55%	2.84%	Interest paid monthly. (No longer available)	£50,000+	6.03%	4.82%
	£2,500+	3.55%	2.84%		£25,000+	5.94%	4.75%
	£1,000+	3.50%	2.80%		£10,000+	5.84%	4.67%
	£500+	3.45%	2.76%		£5,000+	5.70%	4.56%
	£1+	3.35%	2.68%		£2,500+	4.41%	3.53%
90 DAY NOTICE ACCOUNT	£100,000+	6.40%	5.12%	BONUS TESSA	£300+	5.55%	4.28%
Interest paid annually.	£50,000+	6.10%	4.88%	(No longer available).	£500+	4.05%	
	£25,000+	5.85%	4.68%		£1+	1.00%	
	£10,000+	5.60%	4.48%				
	£5,000+	5.20%	4.16%	Premier Tessa (Follow Up) (Issues 1 & 2)	£9,000+	6.90%	
	£2,500+	4.45%	3.56%	(No longer available).	£5,000+	6.60%	
	£500+	3.95%	3.16%		£3,000+	6.60%	
ONE YEAR OPTION BOND	£100,000+	6.85%	5.48%	CHILDREN'S ACCOUNT	£1+	2.90%	2.32%
Variable (Issue 1) Rate Options paying interest annually.	£50,000+	6.85%	5.48%				
	£25,000+	6.75%	5.40%	FULLY PAID SHARE	£50,000+	3.11%	2.48%
	£10,000+	6.50%	5.24%	(Rates also apply to Cheshunt Investment Share, Cheshunt Clubs, Cheshunt Ex-Thrift and Cheshunt Subs. Share, all no longer available).	£25,000+	2.96%	2.37%
	£5,000+	6.55%	5.24%		£10,000+	2.67%	2.13%
ONE YEAR OPTION BOND	£100,000+	6.64%	5.32%		£5,000+	2.33%	1.86%
Variable (Issue 1) Rate Options paying interest monthly.	£50,000+	6.64%	5.32%		£2,000+	2.03%	1.62%
	£25,000+	6.55%	5.24%		£1,000+	1.24%	0.99%
	£10,000+	6.50%	5.20%	SELECT	£1+	0.20%	0.16%
	£5,000+	6.36%	5.07%	(No longer available).			
TESSA PLUS	£3,000+	6.70%					
	£1,500+	5.20%					
	£1+	1.50%					
TESSA TWO (FOLLOW UP) (Issues 1 & 2)	£9,000+	6.90%					
	£5,000+	6.60%					
	£3,000+	6.60%					
	£500+	4.80%					
PREMIER SAVER	£100,000+	5.40%	4.32%				
An instant access account for investors who limit their access over a 12 month period. (No longer available). (No Withdrawals).	£50,000+	5.40%	4.32%				
	£25,000+	5.20%	4.16%				
	£10,000+	4.90%	3.92%				
	£5,000+	4.50%	3.60%				
	£1,000+	4.10%	3.28%				
	£500+	3.75%	3.00%				
	£1+	3.25%	2.64%				
(More than 6 Withdrawals)	£100,000+	4.40%	3.52%				
(Rates also apply to Premier Save Bond Issue 4 - no longer available).	£50,000+	4.40%	3.52%				
	£25,000+	4.30%	3.47%				
	£10,000+	3.90%	3.12%				
	£5,000+	3.50%	2.80%				
	£1,000+	3.10%	2.48%				
	£500+	2.75%	2.04%				
PREMIER PLUS CAPITAL ISSUE 1	£100,000+	6.40%	5.12%	SPECIAL MONTHLY INCOME	£50,000+	3.11%	2.48%
Three months notice required for withdrawal. (Rates also apply to Guaranteed Investment Account Issue 5 and Guaranteed Investment Account Extra Issues 1 & 2). (No longer available).	£50,000+	6.10%	4.88%	(No longer available). Rates also apply to High 30 Monthly Income, Cheshunt Instant Income, Overseas Monthly Income, Overseas Plus, Moneylink, Snoopy, Guaranteed Equity Bond 1 Year Issues 1, Balanced Guaranteed Equity Bond 1 Year Issues A, B, C & D Guaranteed Equity Bond 5 Year Issues t, 2, 3 & 4, Bonus Interest Bond Issue 1, Capital Maker Bond, Premier Save Bond Issues 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6, Escalator Bond Issue 3 (3 years), Fixed for Six Bond Issues 1 & 2, Bonus Return Bond Issues 1 & 2, Bonus Interest Bond Issues 2 & 3, Bonus Bond Issue 2, Secure Investment Account Issue 3 & 4, Premier Option Bond all Issues Fixed and Variable, Premier Twelve Fixed Issue 1, 1 Year Deposit Bond Fixed Issue 1 and Balanced Guaranteed Equity Bond 1 Year Deposit Issues 1, 2 & 3, Capital Protection Growth Bond Issue 1 and Guaranteed Equity Bond Plus Issue 1.	£25,000+	3.00%	2.40%
	£25,000+	5.85%	4.65%		£10,000+	2.70%	2.16%
	£10,000+	5.60%	4.48%		£5,000+	2.35%	1.88%
	£5,000+	5.20%	4.16%		£2,000+	2.05%	1.64%
	£2,000+	4.45%	3.56%		£1,000+	1.25%	1.00%
	£500+	3.95%	3.16%		£1+	0.20%	0.16%
PREMIER PLUS MONTHLY INCOME ISSUE 1	£100,000+	6.22%	4.98%	CHESHUNT SPECIAL 90 CAPITAL	£50,000+	3.95%	3.16%
Three months notice required for withdrawal. and interest paid monthly. (No longer available).	£50,000+	5.91%	4.72%	(No longer available). Rates also apply to Cheshunt Special 90 (Gross) and Cheshunt Charity Instant, Aid to Thrift, Guaranteed Investment Account Issues 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18 & 19, No 1 Capital (1), Triple Bonus (1), Bristol Plus, Moneylink, Snoopy, Guaranteed Equity Bond 3 Year Issue 1, Balanced Guaranteed Equity Bond 1 Year Issues A, B, C & D Guaranteed Equity Bond 5 Year Issues t, 2, 3 & 4, Bonus Interest Bond Issue 1, Capital Maker Bond, Premier Save Bond Issues 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 & 6, Escalator Bond Issue 3 (Monthly Income), all no longer available. Premier Twelve Issue 1 (Monthly Income) and 1 Year Option Deposit Bond Fixed Issue 1 and Balanced Guaranteed Equity Bond Plus Issue 1.	£25,000+	3.65%	2.87%
	£25,000+	5					

## market report / shares

## Data Bank

FTSE 100	4905.2	-45.3
FTSE 250	4664.7	-12.3
FTSE 350	2368.1	-18.8
SEAO Volume	704.3m shares	
38,274 bargains		
Gilt's Index	97.34	unch

## Share spotlight

Glaxo Wellcome	1500	1400	1300	1200	1100	1000	900	800	700	600	500	400	300	200	100	0
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## Bizarre stories emerge as Footsie continues to drift

As Footsie continued its lack-lustre drift, the stock market had to resort to bizarre stories to generate interest.

A cash call by a German bank was enough to get one circulating - a bid for a British financial group. National Westminster Bank, or at least part of it, was identified as the likely target.

The German bank is Commerzbank and its intended victim was said to be NatWest's troubled securities arm. Although few professed to believe the story it did allow NatWest shares to buck a falling market, gaining 11.5p to 824p.

The bank has had a difficult year with poor profits and high-profile problems at its securities side. It has held what it called "exploratory" merger talks with two groups, thought to be Abbey National and Prudential Corporation.

The struggling bank has, however, denied it plans to sell

its securities business, where it is undertaking a revamping exercise.

Commerzbank is thought to be keen to develop its London operation, which includes fund manager Jupiter Tindall. It is raising around £700m through a rights issue and has said the cash is earmarked for its investment banking side.

The German bank does not have a significant London securities operation, an area which has attracted its rivals, Deutsche and Dresdner.

Footsie fell a further 45.3 points to 4,905.2, making an 89 fall this week. A raft of largely encouraging company results failed to make any overall impression. The FTSE 250 index fell back but the FTSE Small-Cap index provided a flicker of encouragement, gaining 1.6 to 2,281.2.

Footsie changes were as expected. Norwich Union, Billiton, Woolwich, Sun Life &

Provincial (up 8.5p to 420p) and Williams were promoted, replacing Tate & Lyle, Hanson, Imperial Tobacco, Mercury Asset Management and Burman Castro.

Drug shares were under the weather with Glaxo Wellcome off 36p to 1,249p and SmithKline Beecham 19p to 530p. Worries about US drug profits created the anxiety and Glaxo also had to contend with unexpected delays over the switch of its Beconase allergy drug from prescription to over-the-counter sales.

Biocompatibles International continued to demonstrate the market's reluctance to take prisoners, crashing another 182.5p to 550p on the failure of its link with Johnson & Johnson to materialise. But other 182.5p to 550p on the failure of its link with Johnson & Johnson to materialise. But

Shield Diagnostic rose 35p to 419.5p after disclosing it had licensed its EPOC32 operating system to Philips, which intends to use it for a range of data and messaging products.

Airtours, the holiday group, shaded 5p to 1,162.5p on whispers that its bigger rival Thomson was planning a major push.

Limeight, the bathrooms to kitchens group, fell 3p to 64.5p; the shares were floated at 175p in November. Interim figures today are expected to be poor and there is talk of a capital injection by founder Stephen Boler and a rights issue.

Tring International, the scene of boardroom strife, fell 1p to 11p after the budget music concern said a bid may appear but not a "significant premium" to the market price.

JXN Oil & Gas rose 7p to 52p as the Ukrainian state oil company seemed to under-

mine the agreed bid from Ramco Energy. The Ukrainians acquired a near 11 per cent JKX stake at 52p, some 50 above the Ramco offer. It is unclear whether the counter-move is an attempt to get a higher price or is aimed at preventing Ramco getting full control.

Hanover International, the hotel chain, edged forward 5p to 140p on talk of a Jarvis Hotels strike, and Fitch hard-contract lifted its stake in the design group to 25.79 per cent.

London & Metropolitan, a loss-making property group, came in for a speculative run, rising 2.75p to 7.5p, highest since June. The company has made losses of more than £10m over the past three years. Interim figures are due next month.

La Senza, the lingerie chain which came to market last year at 150p, fell a further 7p to 31.5p.

## Taking Stock

□ Britton, the packaging group developed by two former merchant bankers, could soon be a takeover target. There is market talk that an offer of around 120p is being prepared with API said to be the interested party. Britton was once an acquisitive group. Then a shock warning that its interim figures, due later this month, would be disappointing devastated its shares. The price has rallied to 71p from the 51p hit on the warning; last year it was 155.5p.

□ Enex International rose 3.5p to 33.25p, n. high. The excitement stems from hopes that the company will exercise its option to acquire 95 per cent of a zinc deposit in Kazakhstan. Results of the exploration work Enex has carried out are thought to be highly encouraging.

## MARKET REPORT

## DEREK PAIN

stock market reporter of the year

1997	High	Low	Stock	Price	Cdg	Vol	Yld	P/Price	Index
Alcohol & Beverages	1000	900	Adnams	1000	900	1000	1000	1000	1000
Distributors	1000	900	Admiral W	1000	900	1000	1000	1000	1000
Engineering Vehicles	1000	900	Admiral W	1000	900	1000	1000	1000	1000
Extractive Industries	1000	900	Admiral W	1000	900	1000	1000	1000	1000
Food Manufacturers	1000	900	Admiral W	1000	900	1000	1000	1000	1000
Electronics	1000	900	Admiral W	1000	900	1000	1000	1000	1000
Gas Distribution	1000	900	Admiral W	1000	900	1000	1000	1000	1000
Health Care	1000	900	Admiral W	1000	900	1000	1000	1000	1000
Household Goods	1000	900	Admiral W	1000	900	1000	1000	1000	1000
Engineering	1000	900	Admiral W	1000	900	1000	1000	1000	1000
Insurance	1000	900	Admiral W	1000	900	1000	1000	1000	1000
Internationals	1000	900	Admiral W	1000	900	1000	1000	1000	1000
Chemicals	1000	900	Admiral W	1000	900	1000	1000	1000	1000
Building Materials	1000	900	Admiral W	1000	900	1000	1000	1000	1000
Industrials	1000	900	Admiral W	1000	900	1000	1000	1000	1000
Index-linked	1000	900	Admiral W	1000	900	1000	1000	1000	1000
Shorts	1000	900	Admiral W	1000	900	1000	1000	1000	1000
Undated	1000	900	Admiral W	1000	900	1000	1000	1000	1000
1997	High	Low	Stock	Price	Cdg	Vol	Yld	P/Price	Index
Mediums	1000	900	Admiral W	1000	900	1000	1000	1000	1000
Longs	1000	900	Admiral W	1000	900	1000	1000	1000	1000
1997	High	Low	Stock	Price	Cdg	Vol	Yld	P/Price	Index
Government Securities	1000	900	Admiral W	1000	900	1000	1000	1000	1000
1997	High	Low	Stock	Price	Cdg	Vol	Yld	P/Price	Index
Support Services	1000	900	Admiral W	1000	900	1000	1000	1000	1000
Transport	1000	900	Admiral W	1000	900	1000	1000	1000	1000
Wearables	1000	900	Admiral W	1000	900	1000	1000	1000	1000
Weights Issues	1000	900	Admiral W	1000	900	1000	1000	1000	1000
Recent Issues	1000	900	Admiral W	1000	900	1000	1000	1000	1000

# Channel 5 beats expectations on viewing figures

Nigel Cope  
City Correspondent

**Losses at Channel 5, the terrestrial television channel launched at the end of March, are lower than analysts have been expecting while audience share and advertising revenues have also risen.**

Channel 5 recorded a loss of £23m in its first three months on top of the £15.5m of start-up costs which have already been written off by its four shareholders.

The figures were released yesterday along with half-year results from United News & Media, which owns a 29 per cent stake in Channel 5. Its share of the first three months' losses was £6.7m.

The channel, whose launch was dogged by problems, now reaches 65 per cent of the country. Its audience share is 5 per cent in homes that can access it and 3 per cent nationwide.

Support from advertisers has been encouraging with annualised revenues running at £85m. This is much higher than even the top end of City expectations and will reassure analysts who have expressed concerns that Channel 5 would prove a financial black hole. "We are slightly ahead of our expectations," said the company's chief executive, Lord Hollick.

On the basis of yesterday's figures, broker Henderson Crosthwaite has lowered its

forecast of first-year losses from £25m to £20m.

Excluding Channel 5 losses, United News & Media recorded a 15 per cent increase in half-year profits to £174m. Lord Hollick yesterday repeated his call for a fairer system on the way broadcasters were taxed.

He said licence fees paid to the Treasury by the ITV companies could be replaced by a tax on advertising and subscription revenues. This would extend the tax to include satellite broadcaster BSkyB. "Our view is that the tax should be levied fairly and evenly," he said.

"There needs to be a fundamental review."

Lord Hollick's comments came as the Independent Television Commission is consulting on the issue. It has asked for industry reaction by 27 September.

United News & Media, which was formed as a result of MAI's merger with United News last year, is making progress with operating margins which rose from 15.4 per cent to 18 per cent.

After a year of busy corporate activity, in which United made £1.1bn worth of acquisitions and £400m of disposals, Lord Hollick said the focus this year would switch to organic growth.

The review of HTV, for which United paid £372m earlier this year, will be completed by the end of this month. Cost savings will be reinvested across the

group. Business Services, the exhibitions and trade magazine division which now accounts for 45 per cent of group profits, saw improved performances from Miller Freeman, which now includes the Blenheim Exhibitions group. Profits in the division rose by 70 per cent to £87m.

The consumer publishing arm, which includes the Express newspaper titles, increased underlying profits by 18 per cent to £48m.

Lord Hollick said investment in the Express would continue. With £10m invested so far since the MAI-United merger, a further £10m will be spent on the paper "over the next year or two".

Lord Hollick said the move towards a seven-day operation had worked well but more funds would be invested in the Sunday title.

"We are going to give the Mail a real run for its money over the next five years," he said.

The falling cost of newsprint boosted the group's bottom line by £10m but currency factors cost the group £5m while the rest was offset by development activity.

The financial services division, which includes the money-brokering operation, saw profits fall by 13 per cent to £75m.

Group margins improved from 15 per cent to 18 per cent.

Net debt stands at £1bn. The interim dividend is 11p. The shares rose 27.5p to 746p.



Lord Hollick: "We are going to give the Mail a real run for its money over the next five years"

## MIN profits rise to £13.6m

Nigel Cope

Midland Independent Newspapers, which is the subject of an agreed £297m takeover bid from Mirror Group, reported a sharp rise in half-year profits yesterday and said it did not expect the deal to be blocked by the competition authorities.

The deal is being scrutinised by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, which is due to report its findings to the Department of Trade and Industry at the end of this month. "There is no precedent for a deal like this being blocked," said MIN's chief executive, Chris Oakley.

MIN, which owns 44 newspaper titles including the Birmingham Post, Evening Mail and Coventry Telegraph, reported a 64 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £13.6m for the six months to 29 June. The figures exclude £2.1m of exceptional charges caused by redundancy costs and £900,000 of advisers' fees relating to the Mirror Group deal.

Profits were also boosted by first-time contributions from the acquisitions in May of the Hinckley Times and Loughborough Echo titles. These added £5.1m to half-year turnover.

Though sales of its flagship titles were flat or showed slight declines, circulation revenue increased by £300,000 to £11m, helped by cover price increases. Profits were boosted by a sharp fall in the cost of newsprint which put £2m on the bottom line in the half year. Advertising revenue increased by 24.5 per cent with recruitment advertising strong.

Mr Oakley said a loyalty scheme for the Birmingham Mail was working well. There are 45,000 holders of a loyalty card which offers money off in a range of retailers as well as a retrospective rebate for people who buy the Mail all week.

Birmingham Live, the joint venture television company with Mirror Group, has attracted 200,000 viewers. MIN's share of station's first-half losses was £177,000. MIN said it was part of three consortia bidding for three radio new licences which are set to be granted by the Radio Authority.

## Independent Newspapers drops out of running for Fairfax

**Independent Newspapers, the Irish-based media group, yesterday ruled itself out of the running for Fairfax, the Australian newspaper empire, the future ownership of which has been put in doubt by Kerry Packer's recent announcement that he was selling down his stake in the company.**

Independent Newspapers,

chaired by Dr Tony O'Reilly, has been linked with attempts to purchase Fairfax in the past, but this time round it says it will not be pursuing possible openings.

Announcing record profits for the first six months of this year, Liam Heady, chief executive of Independent Newspapers, said: "The price is too high for

a mature newspaper group and we would not be interested."

In the half year to the end of June, Independent Newspapers increased its pre-tax profits from £182.6m to £183.9m, thanks mainly to a first-time contribution from the group's recently acquired newspaper interests in New Zealand, Wilson & Horton.

However, there was strong growth throughout the group, and according to some forecasts in the City, where the group has attracted a significant investment following, profits may top £100m for the year as a whole.

Dr O'Reilly said: "The results for the group for the full year are expected to show a worth

while improvement over 1996." In Ireland, where the company owns the country's leading quality daily and Sunday newspapers, there were strong gains both in advertising and circulation revenues. Both titles were able to consolidate and build on their leading positions.

In the UK, progress was made in reducing losses at The

Independent, which is 46 per cent owned by Independent Newspapers, despite the continued price war in the broadsheet market. The company's share of losses fell from £18.2m to £18.6m.

In local currency terms, there was strong growth in profits from the group's interests both in France and South Africa. However, the steep decline in the value of the French franc and the South African rand led to a slight reduction in profits from these territories when translated back into Irish currency.

In Ireland, the company is recommending an interim dividend of 2.6p, an increase of 13 per cent on last year.

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# No one can afford to ignore the 'speculators' – or have them shot



Diane Coyle

America can no more disregard the currency markets than the Thais or Malaysians.

Foreign exchange turnover, at more than \$1.2 trillion a day, is on too formidable a scale

helpfully just published a chunky document which gives their latest estimates for "equilibrium" exchange rates which would reflect fundamentals. They calculate that the dollar ought to be around \$1.50 to the mark in the long run, and the pound should be at DM2.49. The

is not in the nature of central bankers to like volatility, although the investment bankers love it, of course, for the extra business and profit opportunities it brings. As last spring's G7 ministers' meeting put it in the official communiqué: "We agreed that exchange rates should reflect economic fundamentals and that excess volatility and significant deviations from fundamentals are undesirable."

Therefore the financial markets will be a bit edgy about the meeting of G7 finance ministers and central bank governors due to take place in Hong Kong in just over a week's time. They will also be keeping a cautious eye on any smoke signals emerging from this weekend's meeting of European finance ministers, which is due to discuss the exchange rates at which member currencies will convert to the euro at the end of next year.

Given that those attending these two key policy meetings have a strong preference for exchange rates that do not move too far, too fast, and reflect underlying economic fundamentals, the markets will be speculating whether they might do anything about it. In April this was talk but no co-ordinated intervention and no change in policies. But two years earlier the G7 did manage to bring to reverse the dollar's earlier decline. Will the ministers walk their talk this time around?

Generally, action takes place only when the strains of misaligned currencies have become unbearable. Economists at Goldman Sachs have

equilibrium dollar-yen rate is ¥11.95.

This means that at current rates, the dollar is substantially overvalued against the German mark, though much less so against the yen, while the pound is still overvalued despite its recent decline. Generally speaking, the mark is far too weak, the dollar and the pound too strong.

The first action G7 ministers and central banks always take is to try to talk their currencies down – or up – without having to intervene directly in the foreign exchange markets or do anything really drastic like alter interest rates or government budgets.

The talking has started. For example, the Bank of England successfully persuaded the currency markets that the pound should be lower with a statement last month that indicated interest rates were unlikely to rise again in the immediate future.

On Tuesday Lawrence Summers, the US Deputy Treasury Secretary, launched a verbal assault that took the dollar down more than two yen in a day by saying the Japanese government must promote domestic demand, rather than relying on exports to haul the economy to recovery.

Other central banks have quietly stopped buying US Treasury bonds during the past four months. If private investors do not plug the emerging gap, the dollar is likely to fall. An increase in US interest rates would postpone this correction but interest rates are likely to in-

crease in Germany as well, and perhaps also in the UK eventually.

Besides, its growing trade deficit means America's appetite for foreign capital is huge. To finance its gap between imports and exports of around \$190bn (£120bn) this year it would have to soak up all the spare savings in the rest of the G7. To make matters worse, Japan and other Asian countries have bought about a third of the foreign purchases of Treasury bonds during the past two years. Recent events will supply of capital inflows will probably dry up.

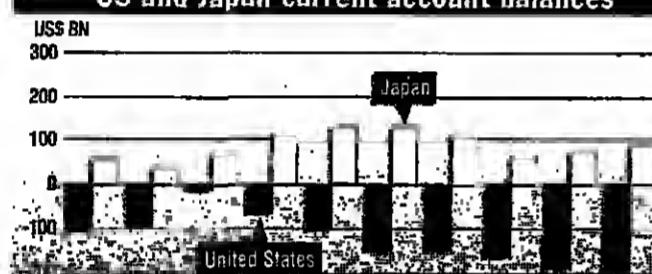
As the Goldman Sachs experts point out: "In the past two years we have witnessed the swiftest acceleration of foreign capital inflows into the US Treasury market on record."

If they slow down markedly – perhaps as a result of decisions taken or signals sent at the impending G7 meeting – either long-term yields in the US will have to rise or the dollar will have to set off on a downward path to provide overseas investors with a currency gain.

The real moral is that the American government can no longer ignore the currency markets than the Thais or Malaysians. According to the last international survey in 1995, daily foreign exchange turnover was \$1.2 trillion. Next year's update will show that it has grown even more. This is too formidable a scale for any government to tackle. All are subject to the market's disciplines, when the "speculators" get round to applying them.

Countries like the US with a big current account deficit are consuming more than they can produce at home – a trade shortfall is often the earlier sign of inflationary pressure. If, as seems to be the case in America at the moment, this is because of growing purchases of investment goods, it need not be a long-term problem. The investment will eventually increase home production. Even so, it will put the currency under pressure and in the end is likely to result in a depreciating dollar. If, as in the Southeast Asian case, it is the result of consumer spending or unproductive government spending, the crunch will be rapid and painful.

## US and Japan current account balances



No sooner do I write that Sir Brian Pearce is about to retire from British Insureds than he marches off to be the new deputy chairman of Britannic Assurance.

Britannic is best known as a rather boring company which sells policies to CDs and collects their premiums door to door. Sources at Britannic tell me this is all going to change, and that a bright chap like Sir Brian wouldn't have taken the job otherwise. His joining "is a signal that he understands and is excited by potential Britannic has in the market".

Over the last year the company has gained an entirely new top team, including Harold Cottam as chairman. Last February it made a deal with the DTI over the

reputation of its "orphan assets" and the share price has moved a great deal. Now Sir Brian, a former boss at Barclays and Midland, will help cut fat from the company. Stand by for lift off. Or something like that.

Personally I would have thought Sir Brian was ready to start cultivating roses and improving his handicap after such a long and successful career, but his appetite for business seems undimmed.

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## sport

# Rusedski enjoys cake and the clay

### Tennis

JOHN ROBERTS  
reports from Bournemouth

The highlight of a hero's welcome for Greg Rusedski on his return from an unforgettable fortnight at the United States Open came at the end of the first set of his opening match in the Samsung Open at the West Hants Club yesterday.

As the British No 1 sat down and peeled a banana during a change of ends, one of his elderly supporters made her way along the side of the court with the aid of a zimmer frame, complete with a brake.

Before the banana was half consumed, Rusedski looked up to find the woman standing by his side, offering him her best wishes and a gift to mark his 24th birthday last Saturday.

Don Weir, the security officer, was on the scene. "It's OK, Don," Rusedski said, and went on to complete a victory against his Spanish opponent, Alberto Martin, 6-3, 4-6, 6-2.

"I've never seen anything like it in my life," Weir said afterwards. "I saw the woman earlier. She said she had lost her ticket, and was given a guest ticket. It was amazing how quickly she got down there from the corner of the court."

Rusedski had arrived home in Chelsea on Monday evening to find 36 messages of congratulations on his telephone answering machine in response to his advance to the US Open men's singles final, in which he was defeated by Australia's Pat Rafter. After yesterday's match he was presented with a birthday cake by the Lawn Tennis Association.

The surface was slower than Flushing Meadow's concrete, and the arena would have been lost without trace in the Arthur Ashe Stadium, but it was a beautiful day for tennis on the green, green clay of home.

Much to the encouragement of the LTA, the match had to be delayed to allow a crowd of 2,700 to file into the grounds, a scene reminiscent of British tennis in its heyday, long before Rusedski and his British rival Tim Henman were born.

There was no speed gun to tell whether Rusedski was serving in excess of 145mph, the record he set during Sunday's US Open final, and we were assured that the Mercedes logos on each side of



A new hero returns home: Greg Rusedski in action in the Samsung Open in Bournemouth yesterday

Photograph: Peter Jay

the net were not gun sights for passes down the line.

When the players met for the second, the 6ft 3in Rusedski dwarfed his opponent. He realised, however, that Martin was likely to grow in stature once the rallies started on a court suited to the Spanish groundstroke style. Rusedski gave Martin a taste of his serving power in the opening game, one of his deliveries bruising the ribs of a half boy.

Martin leaned back before serving, in the manner of an archer, but his deliveries, in the main, were merely the means of starting a point rather than fin-

ishing it. Rusedski broke for 3-1 and only paused in his rush through the first set to complain about an overrule by the umpire in the concluding game.

The opening set was over in 34 minutes and then Rusedski broke in the opening game of the second set. On the concluding point he out-rallied Martin in a duel which lasted 20 strokes, the last of which was a splendid forehand pass down the line.

Martin struck back immediately, breaking Rusedski in the next game and again in the 10th – worryingly, with a confident backhand service return down the line on set point.

The cake was brought on, the crowd sang happy birthday,

and Rusedski forgot about any lingering jet-lag. "I was pleased with the way I played today," he said. "My opponent today is a very good clay court player and can run down every ball. I was pleased to get by him."

His next opponent, Australia's Richard Fromberg, is also adept on clay courts, but, whatever the outcome, Rusedski has accomplished a good deal by coming back from the biggest match of his career to make an appearance in this tournament.

"It's been a very special day," he said. "The crowd was great – even the lady who came to me with a present after the first set."

Rusedski had two break points in the opening game of the final set, chiding himself – "Come on, hit it!" – after failing to convert either of them. He was more successful in the third game, teasing his opponent with a lob which the Spaniard returned over the baseline.

"Greg-o! Greg-o!" came the shouts, Rusedski did not disappoint, breaking again for 5-2 and serving out the match after an hour and 39 minutes. He delivered 10 aces, but, as in New York, his improved groundstroke game continued to impress.

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Rusedski's other representatives were defeated in the second round. Chris Wilkins lost to the No 2 seed, Felix Mantilla, 6-3, 6-2. Miles MacLagan took Marcos Ondruska to three sets before the South African prevailed, 6-1, 3-6, 7-5, and Danny Sapsford was beaten by Spain's Jacobo Diaz, 6-3, 6-1.

Tim Henman dispatched Russia's Alexander Volkov, 6-3, 6-3 yesterday to advance to the quarter-finals of the President's Cup event in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

**■ Steffi Graf will make her comeback after a knee injury break in an exhibition tournament in Baltimore in November.**

# O'Meara puts pay on Cup agenda

### Golf

ANDY FARRELL  
reports from St-Nom-La-Bretèche

As natural as it is for words from Colin Montgomerie to be reported in large type in the popular press, it is not always easy to fathom what he is going on about. "Pay players? No, definitely not. There is no reason to," Monty spluttered.

With events at Valderrama

only two weeks away, of course, we are talking Ryder Cup, but it is nothing new that the 24 players who participate do so for expenses only. But recently, in *Sports Illustrated*, Mark O'Meara questioned whether this should continue.

"It is a touchy situation," O'Meara said. "I've taken some heat in the papers." The American, who will be making his fourth appearance in the Ryder Cup, has made an early transatlantic journey to play in the Lancome Trophy in Paris. He will then return home for a week's practice before joining his teammates in New York for the trip to Spain by Concorde on Monday week. A planned dinner with President Clinton the previous night has been cancelled as Clinton is accompanying his daughter, Chelsea, as she enrolls at Stanford University.

O'Meara believes that a professional golfer on public display should be paid accordingly. It can be assumed he is not here to improve his French, although he will be getting a significantly smaller portion of the sponsor's pot than the star attraction, Greg Norman. Of the Ryder Cup, O'Meara said: "It is not about greed.

"But if the Ryder Cup becomes big business for the European PGA and the US PGA, then I think it is something that should be looked at. The players are the ones who make it happen and somehow they could be compensated, maybe with a retirement fund or trust fund for their children." At the President's Cup, the much new-

er match between the USA and an International team excluding Europeans, the players and captains received \$32,000 (£21,000) each to donate to a charity of their choice.

The American found support in principle from Jesper Parnevik, the defending champion, whose delight at being called up by Seve Ballesteros was tempered by his sympathy for the injured Miguel Angel

Martin.

The Swede, despite a strong year in America, would have understood if he had lost out in a straight toss up between himself and Nick Faldo. "Some friends said to me I should be on the team, but I said: 'Who would you rather play, me or Nick?'" They said: "Maybe Nick is more intimidating. I wouldn't have been surprised."

Parnevik is joined by six of his Ryder Cup colleagues, with the money list race between Montgomerie, Darren Clarke, Ian Woosnam and Bernhard Langer overshadowed by all else. Norman arrives having retained the No 1 on the world rankings after his win in the World Series and his second place last week.

"I take no notice," Norman said. "It has no bearing on my life." This was hard to take for the press officer sitting next to him. "Thanks, Greg," sighed Tony Greer, who devised and compiles the ranking.

**■ An impressive final-hole birdie brought victory for Paul Lawrie and Jonathan Lomas in the Canon Shoot-Out curtain-raiser to the Lancome Trophy in Paris yesterday. The Anglo-Scottish pair defeated Per-Ulf Johansson and Jesper Parnevik to win £2,500 each. Seve Ballesteros and Eduardo Romero were the first pairing to be eliminated, with a score of one over par. Ballesteros was, however, cheered by the firm of Johnson and Parnevik with the Swedish duo a total of four under par for the seven holes played at the St-Nom-La-Bretèche course.**

## Woodward set to be named England's tactical guru

### Rugby Union

CHRIS HEWITT

England do not possess a coaching team to prepare the national side for the forthcoming quartet of Tests against the southern hemisphere superpowers, but such irrelevances are no concern of Twickenham's. Today, Rugby Football Union officials will

name an élite party of around 50 players for the first squad session of the season at Bishop's Abbey next Wednesday.

Those dyed-in-the-wool traditionalists who subscribe to a man managerial role and Rob Smith, the popular and bitherto underrated Wasps coach, emerging as a late contender to complete the front-line panel, the long-running saga caused by Jack Rowell's sudden abdication is now

more realistically, the RFU are now likely to confirm Clive Woodward's appointment as full-time tactical guru next week.

With Roger Utley well-nigh certain to be named in a managerial role and Rob Smith, the popular and bitherto underrated Wasps coach, emerging as a late contender to complete the front-line panel, the long-running saga caused by Jack Rowell's sudden abdication is now

nearing a belated conclusion. The contractual small print is in the hands of the lawyers and should be rendered watertight by this weekend.

Today's squad will include all the English Lions who triumphed in South Africa this summer – at least, those who are fit – plus the majority of those who squared the simultaneous Test series in Argentina. Woodward and company will have had

only a minimal say in the composition of the party but will wield far greater influence when the numbers are narrowed down later this month.

Meanwhile, Australia, who play England at Twickenham on 15 November, have bitten the bullet rather more quickly than the RFU. Yesterday, the Wallabies paraded Rod Macqueen as their new national coach in the wake of Greg Smith's decision to jump before being pushed following his side's 60-point humiliation by the Springboks last month.

Macqueen has agreed a two-year contract leading up to the 1999 World Cup and, in many ways, he was the obvious man for the job. His work with the Cinderella-like ACT province, who reached the Super 12 final in the summer, has been sensational and that success has marked him out as a highly capable motivator.

On the domestic front, the RFU will make half the draw for the second round of the national knock-out cup on Monday. The 56 home sides will be named with the draw completed seven days later after the competition's new sponsors, thought to be Carrsberg-Jetley, have been confirmed.

John Hall cleared, page 2

### Panis makes return to Prost hot seat

#### Motor racing

Damon Hill's rival in the race to be the No 1 driver for Alain Prost's team next year made a successful return from injury in France yesterday.

Olivier Panis, who broke both legs in a high-speed crash at the Canadian Grand Prix in June, tested his Prost-Mugen-Honda at the Magny-Cours circuit for the first time since his crash.

The Frenchman lapped the track in 1min 14.5sec – equaling the time Michael Schumacher recorded to claim pole position at this year's French Grand Prix.

Reports last week had suggested Prost was in negotiations with Prost over a £5m deal to race for the four-time world champion's team next year – and, as the current No 1 driver, Panis' position appeared to be under threat. But his return from injury may have convinced Prost to stay loyal to his current driver, who was lying third in the world championship table before his accident.

"Oliver's performance has impressed me enormously," Prost said. "There is a big step between what we are doing this week and a race weekend, proper, but I am convinced the world is now behind us."

Panis said: "My drive in a Formula Three car last week reassured me I was still competitive and that my legs had recovered and this first run in a Formula One car has confirmed that. But the work has only just begun. I have always said I would not race in a grand prix until I had recovered 100 per cent."

Panis may now make his return as early as the Luxembourg Grand Prix, which takes place at Germany's Nürburgring on 28 September.

### TODAY'S NUMBER

£75,000

The amount raised through gate receipts and ticket sales at Craven Cottage from Fulham's football match against Plymouth Argyle on Tuesday night. The money will be donated to the Diana Princess of Wales Foundation.

### Sponsorship boost for English game

#### Badminton

English badminton has secured a new six-figure sponsorship award and officials hope soon to announce a major lottery grant to help with their eight-year plan to improve performance.

Financiers Liverpool Victoria have given the Badminton Association of England £40,000 for the 1998 National Championships, with that figure to be reviewed at the end of the season as part of a three-year deal.

The tournament will move from its home in Norwich to the Dolphin Leisure Centre in Haywards Heath, Sussex.

Meanwhile, Steve Baddeley,

### Notable double for Bartle

#### Equestrianism

GENEVIEVE MURPHY

Christopher Bartle becomes the first rider to compete on a British championship team for both dressage and horse trials when he rides Word Perfect II in the European Three-Day Event Championships, sponsored by Pedigree Chum, which begin this morning at Burghley in Lincolnshire.

Bartle will be third to go among the four British team riders, who were named yesterday. Mary King goes first on last year's Burghley winner, Star Appeal, followed by Ian Stark on Arakal, Bartle on Word Perfect and William Fox-Pitt on Cosmopolitan II. They will defend the European title won at Pratoni del Vivaro in Italy two years ago, when both King and Fox-Pitt were part of the team.

Starke, who will be riding in his 11th senior championship, had

#### Football

BOBBIN: World Cup draw. Match 1: Scotland v Portugal (7.00pm). Match 2: France v Norway (7.00pm). Match 3: Sweden v King's Lynn (7.00pm).

AVON INSURANCE CHAMPIONSHIP First Division: Queen's Park Rangers v Newton (7.00pm). FA CUP: Match 1: Liverpool v Newcastle (7.00pm). FA CARLSBERG THREE-DAY EVENT CHAMPIONSHIP: Burghley (Burghley).

COLF: Men's Home Internationals (Burton and Berrow, Somerton); Women's Home Internationals (Llanrhaeadr, Ireland).

MOTOR RACING: Manx Rally (Isle of Man).

TENNIS: Samsung Open (Bournemouth).

TODAY'S FIXTURES

#### Other sports

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# Continental élite ponder the future

Some of the leading lights in European football met in London yesterday with the formation of a European super league thought to have come up for discussion.

Representatives of the continent's leading leagues had accepted an invitation from the Premier League to a private meeting just yards from the Football Association's Lancaster Gate headquarters.

Officials from the Italian, German, Spanish, French, Belgian, Portuguese and Dutch leagues were among those who accepted the Premier League chief executive Peter Leaver's invitation.

It is known that the leading leagues feel they have been isolated by what they perceive as the "dictatorial" policy-makers.

ing procedures of Uefa, the European game's governing body, which have sidelined them from any real input.

Franco Carraro, who is in charge of Serie A, was at the meeting, and he is a keen advocate of a European league.

"He [Carraro] has been on the record in the Italian press saying that he thinks the Super League would be a good idea. But that's not for him," Mike Lee, the Premier League spokesman, said. "People have different issues they want to discuss, which are not on the agenda."

A European super league, which would probably run throughout the season, would almost certainly threaten Uefa's money-spinning Champions League.

The premier leagues in Europe have come together for the first time to compare notes," he said. "The idea that a super league is being formed is nonsense. We want to look at the world after Bosman and the pressures of heavy fixture lists and to see if a dialogue between the top leagues will be useful and worthwhile. This is not a meeting where we will be making big decisions – it's more of a get-together."

Whether or not the issue of a super league was brought up during the meeting but it refused to comment further until it knew the details of what was discussed.

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The Under-21 manager Ian Evans also saw his side slip to another defeat in Alytus – 2-1 this time – after taking a 65th-minute lead with a superb goal by the Tottenham winger Peter Gain, who was also making his debut.

Evans said: "I felt sorry for them. They deserved better. After it was obvious we couldn't qualify for the European quarter-finals following the defeat in Iceland, I made a few changes to give all the squad a run."

"But it was still a good performance, and it was just two lapses in five minutes after we had gone in front. Even then we should have been given a penalty when Dominic Foley was fouled, but we're used to decisions like that away from home."

Now the defender Thomas Morgan, who captained the Irish Youth team in the semi-finals of the World Championships in Malaysia in July, has had four stitches in two deep gashes below his left knee. It is the legacy of a tackle by Lithuania's forward Mantas Samuolis, who was only booked.

The St Patrick's Athletic player's first start at the higher age level lasted just 10 minutes before he was carried off on a stretcher. He said: "The Lithuanian's boot went right through my shin pad, and my leg was cut to the bone. I guess I am very lucky it isn't broken."

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The Premier League chief executive said: "We have had a very useful and constructive meeting today. The discussion covered the movement of players, fixtures and agents. We have agreed to meet again and continue to exchange useful information."

While there are a few doubts that there is a degree of contention between the leading European leagues and Uefa, Leaver added, diplomatically: "Our discussions are not a challenge to or in competition with Uefa – our aim is to ensure a better exchange and dialogue between the top professional leagues in Europe."

Italy's Attilio Lombardo shields the ball from Georgi Chikhradze, of Georgia, in yesterday's 0-0 draw. Photograph: AP



Italy's Attilio Lombardo shields the ball from Georgi Chikhradze, of Georgia, in yesterday's 0-0 draw. Photograph: AP

## Under-21s reach quarter-finals

England's Under-21 side have stolen a march on the senior squad by securing a place in the quarter-finals of the European Championships, while Glenn Hoddle's squad will have to do in their group to reach the World Cup finals.

Italy Under-21's 2-0 defeat by Georgia yesterday left England with an unassailable lead at the top of Group Two.

England's 1-0 victory over Moldova at Wycombe's Adams Park on Tuesday night took them on to 15 points with one game to play, away against Italy, who will go into that last game four points adrift.

Hall admitted he expected to receive unmerciful stick from his Coventry team-mates after his 69th-minute close-range effort settled the issue. "It was my first goal in ages," he said. "The last one I got was for Coventry

victory. Hall's goals are collectors items, and he last found the net in a reserve match for Coventry midway through the 1996-97 season. But the centre-half came up to England closer to the European Championship finals next May with his late winner on Tuesday night at Wycombe's Adams Park. Hall's close-range strike put England four points clear of Italy and maintained their unbeaten record in the competition.

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reserves against Aston Villa reserves last season. I've never scored for the Coventry first team, and to get my first international goal was a great feeling. The feeling was of total relief, because we were finding it hard to break Moldova down. They played really defensively in the hope of hitting us on the break."

Hall will be slaughtered when

I go back to Coventry by the likes of Paul Williams. I go up for set-pieces at Coventry but nothing has happened. But I don't care about the stick. They haven't done what I've done, have they?"

Hall said he enjoyed playing

on the left side of the three-man

defensive formation employed by the Under-21 coach, Peter Taylor, as he strives to regain his place in the starting line-up at Highfield Road.

England dominated for long periods but seldom looked like opening up the Moldovans, who packed the midfield area until a Jamie Carragher header was flicked on by Ricardo Scimeca, and Hall applied the finishing touch.

The goals that ended Italy's hopes away in Rustavi – and put England through – came in quick succession in the second half. Georgi Kiknadze drew after 59 minutes and Levan Kebadze wrapped up the Georgian vic-

## Referee 'loan' too long ago for action

CATHERINE RILEY

European football's governing body, Uefa, is to take no action against Anderlecht, despite the club's chairman admitting he made a £20,000 payment to the referee of the controversial 1984 Uefa Cup match against Nottingham Forest.

Uefa said they had decided not to seek sanctions against the Belgian club on the basis of a 10-year statute of limitations. Their disciplinary rules require that allegations of misconduct are limited to one year for incidents on the pitch and 10 years for everything else.

Robbie Fowler has suffered a setback in his recovery from a knee injury after taking a knock on it in training, but Liverpool have been lifted by the news that Jamie Redknapp's comeback from a broken ankle is ahead of schedule.

Another player making a swift recovery is Teddy Sheringham, who is hoping to play in Manchester United's Champions League game next week. The striker, out of England's World Cup qualifying match with a rib injury, said yesterday he may even play in Saturday's game against West Ham.

"If I make a miraculous recovery I might be fit for Saturday. The ribs are not as bad as they were. It was only bruising. When I reported for England duty they sent me for a bone scan and as a precaution sent me home," Sheringham said.

Gudni Bergsson, the Icelandic captain, is back at Bolton after he pulled out of his country's World Cup qualifier against Romania last night after a row over travel arrangements.

The defender wanted to fly straight back to Britain after the game in Bucharest, but the Icelandic FA told him he had to wait for the team to reach Iceland first, which would have meant he would not have been able to join up with the Bolton squad until Friday – just over 24 hours before their match against Arsenal at Highbury.

Wolves' multi-millionaire owner, Sir Jack Hayward, has carried out his threat to take a more hands-on role at the club by taking over as chairman from his son, Jonathan.

Sir Jack appeared to criticise both his son and manager Mark McGhee at the end of last season, when he referred to a "sloppy-run club" and the actions that went on between chairman and manager to persuade him to splash out yet more money on new players.

Diego Maradona yesterday declared his intention to play for Boca Juniors in Sunday's Argentinean League match against Newell's Old Boys after having his temporary drug ban lifted. The 36-year-old was cleared to play again when a judge decided to make sure that the urine sample which provided the positive drugs test really came from Maradona.

## Owen set to lose promotion chance

The 17-year-old forward will be handed at least a one-match ban when Uefa's disciplinary committee meets to decide his fate next week and, given the close proximity of the 10 October qualifying date in Rieti, the suspension applies despite being given his marching orders at a different level.

A Uefa spokesperson said: "Normally the general rules state the suspension takes effect in the same competition, but it depends on the time difference between the two games."

"On this occasion the player will be suspended for the game

in Italy, particularly as the two tournaments are still running."

Owen was given his marching orders for aiming a butt on the body of Yugoslav defender Srdjan Muratovic. A disappointed Taylor said: "It's a shame because Michael would definitely have been up for consideration for the Italian game as we needed a goal-scorer. I was desperate for him to be with us for the game against Moldova, but we have been trying to fair to him and Liverpool."

"Unfortunately the sending off will take the possibility of that happening out of my hands.

### SPORTING DIGEST

#### Woodhall buoyed by return

##### Boxing

###### EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP

Group Two (Bulgaria) 1: Georgia 0 (0-1); Poland 0 (0-1)

Group Four (Bulgaria) 1: Austria 0 (0-1); Pfeiferberger 50 (0-1); Dynamo Strum, March 50 (0-1)

Group Five (Bulgaria) 1: Russia 0 (0-1); Ukraine 50 (0-1); Lukyanov, N. Bulgaria 50 (0-1)

Group Six (Bulgaria) 1: Poland 0 (0-1); Georgia 0 (0-1); Lukyanov, N. Bulgaria 50 (0-1)

Group Seven (Bulgaria) 1: Poland 0 (0-1); Georgia 0 (0-1); Lukyanov, N. Bulgaria 50 (0-1)

Group Eight (Bulgaria) 1: Poland 0 (0-1); Lukyanov, N. Bulgaria 50 (0-1)

Group Nine (Bulgaria) 1: Poland 0 (0-1); Lukyanov, N. Bulgaria 50 (0-1)

Group Ten (Bulgaria) 1: Poland 0 (0-1); Lukyanov, N. Bulgaria 50 (0-1)

Group Eleven (Bulgaria) 1: Poland 0 (0-1); Lukyanov, N. Bulgaria 50 (0-1)

Group Twelve (Bulgaria) 1: Poland 0 (0-1); Lukyanov, N. Bulgaria 50 (0-1)

Group Thirteen (Bulgaria) 1: Poland 0 (0-1); Lukyanov, N. Bulgaria 50 (0-1)

Group Fourteen (Bulgaria) 1: Poland 0 (0-1); Lukyanov, N. Bulgaria 50 (0-1)

Group Fifteen (Bulgaria) 1: Poland 0 (0-1); Lukyanov, N. Bulgaria 50 (0-1)

Group Sixteen (Bulgaria) 1: Poland 0 (0-1); Lukyanov, N. Bulgaria 50 (0-1)

Group Seventeen (Bulgaria) 1: Poland 0 (0-1); Lukyanov, N. Bulgaria 50 (0-1)

Group Eighteen (Bulgaria) 1: Poland 0 (0-1); Lukyanov, N. Bulgaria 50 (0-1)

Group Nineteen (Bulgaria) 1: Poland 0 (0-1); Lukyanov, N. Bulgaria 50 (0-1)

Group Twenty (Bulgaria) 1: Poland 0 (0-1); Lukyanov, N. Bulgaria 50 (0-1)

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Group Thirty (Bulgaria) 1: Poland 0 (0-1); Lukyanov, N. Bulgaria 50 (0-1)

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